TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
THE IDW COLLECTION V3

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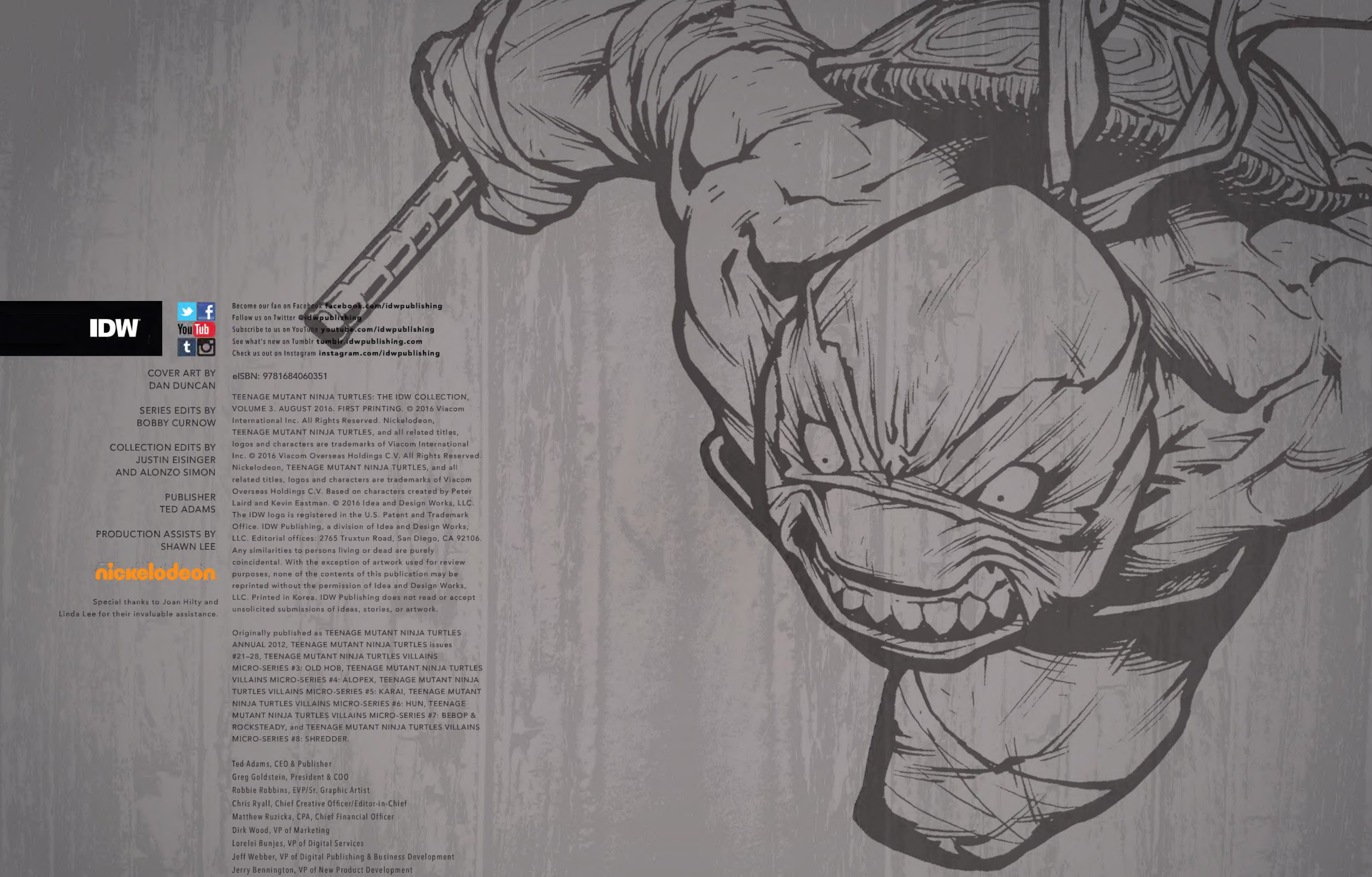

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story & art by KEVIN EASTMAN
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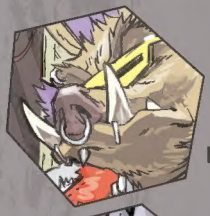

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ANNUAL

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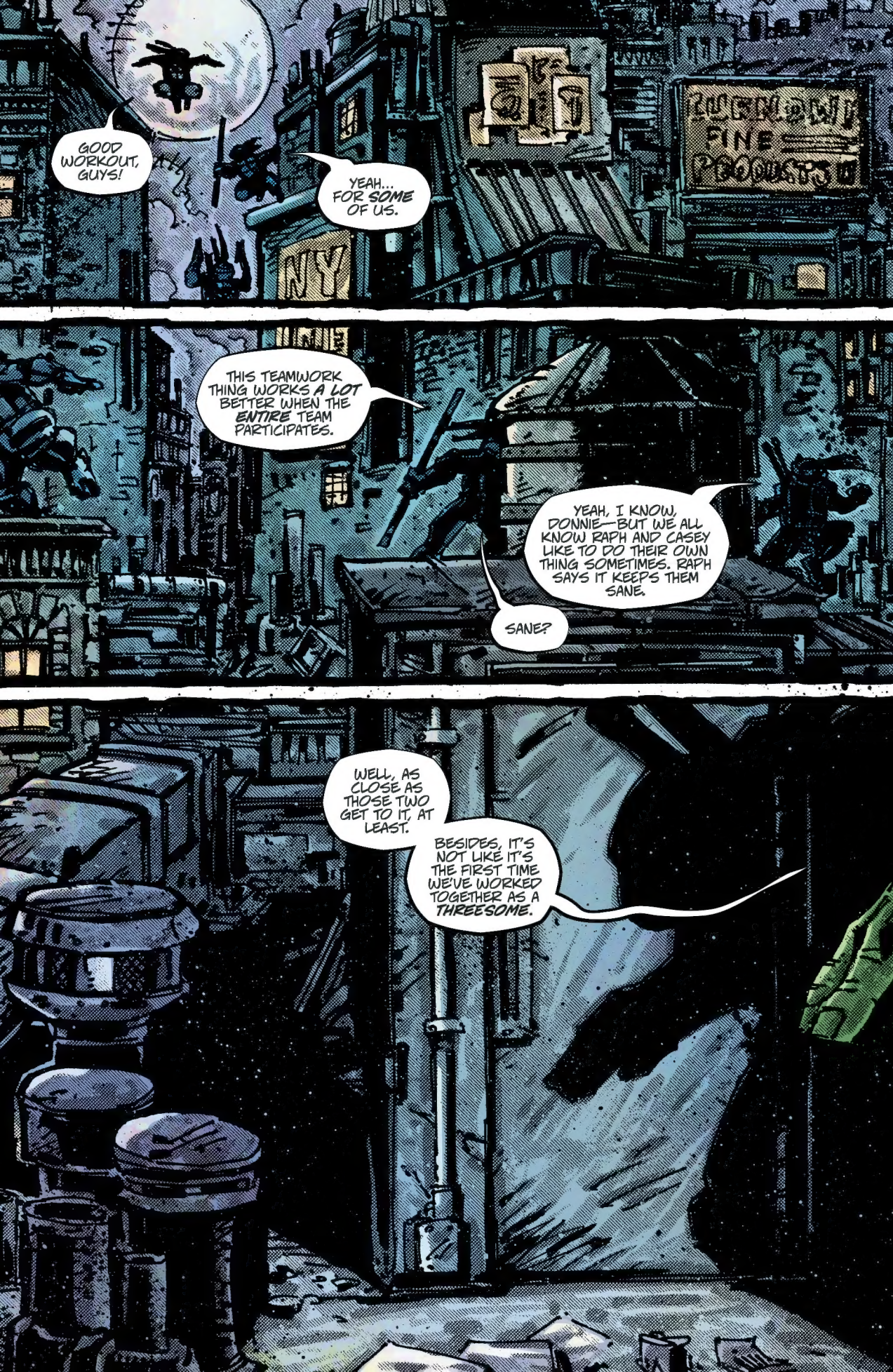
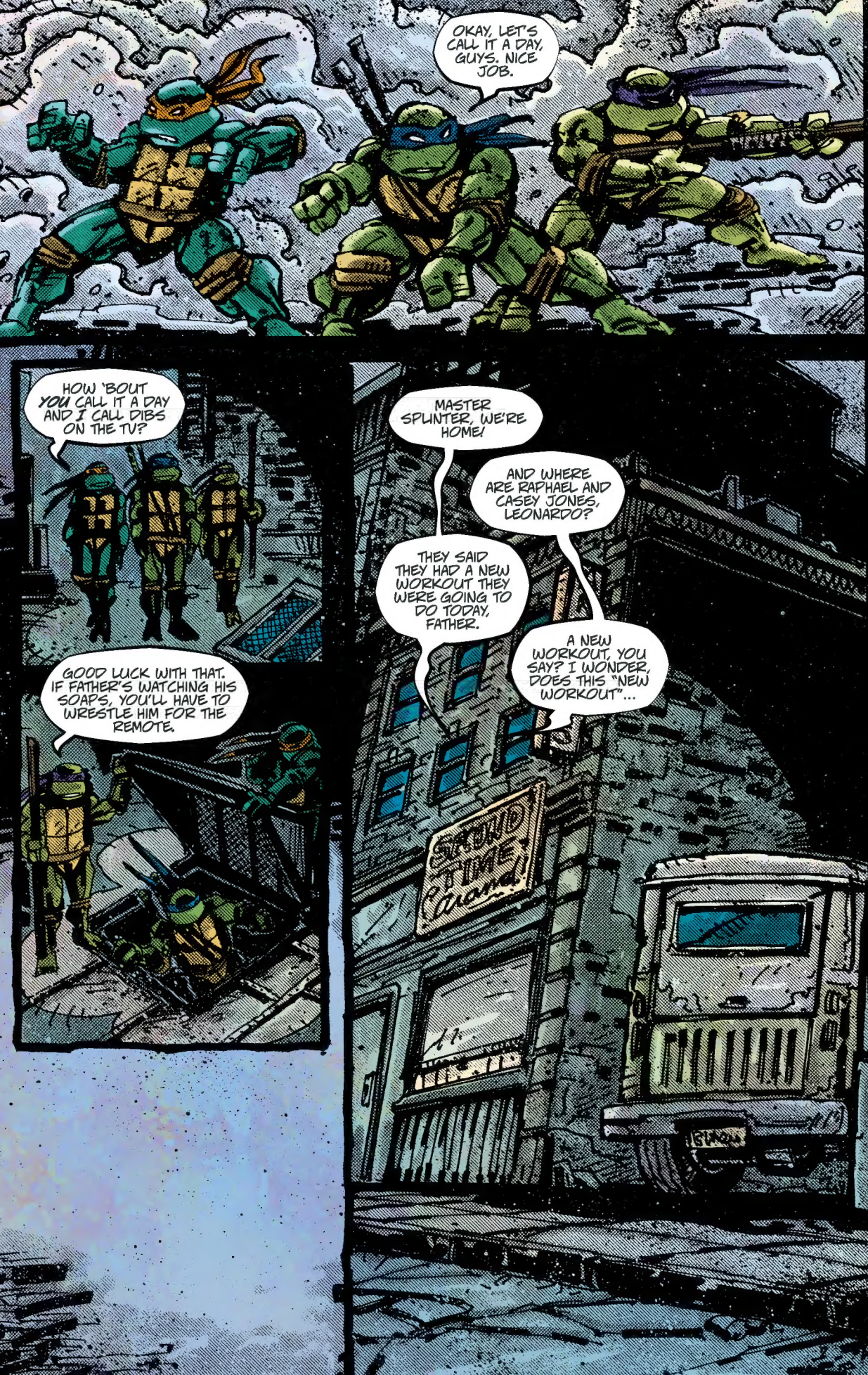

GOOD WORKOUT, GUYS!
YEAH... FOR SOME OF US.
NY
FINE PRODUCTS
THIS TEAMWORK THING WORKS A LOT BETTER WHEN THE ENTIRE TEAM PARTICIPATES.
YEAH, I KNOW, DONNIE—BUT WE ALL KNOW RAPH AND CASEY LIKE TO DO THEIR OWN THING SOMETIMES. RAPH SAYS IT KEEPS THEM SANE.
SANE?
WELL, AS CLOSE AS THOSE TWO GET TO IT, AT LEAST.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER AS A THREESOME.

LIKE THE STOOGES!
YEAH, MIKEY... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

ALL I KNOW IS, RAPH OR NOT, I'M READY TO LAY DOWN THIS BO STAFF AND KICK UP MY FEET—YOU REALLY WHIPPED OUR BUTTS TODAY, LEO.
WISE MAN SAY, NO PAIN, NO GAIN.
HE MUST'VE BEEN TALKIN' ABOUT HUNGER PAINS, 'CAUSE I'M STARVING!
MIKE, WHEN *AREN'T* YOU STARVING?
HEY, PIZZA'S MY LIFE, AND LIFE IS GOOD!
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S COVERED IN EXTRA PEPPERONI.
CAN'T ARGUE THAT ONE, LITTLE BRO.


OKAY, LET'S CALL IT A DAY, GUYS. NICE JOB.
HOW 'BOUT YOU CALL IT A DAY AND I CALL DIBS ON THE TV?
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT. IF FATHER'S WATCHING HIS SOAPS, YOU'LL HAVE TO WRESTLE HIM FOR THE REMOTE.
MASTER SPLINTER, WE'RE HOME!
AND WHERE ARE RAPHAEL AND CASEY JONES, LEONARDO?
THEY SAID THEY HAD A NEW WORKOUT THEY WERE GOING TO DO TODAY, FATHER.
A NEW WORKOUT, YOU SAY? I WONDER, DOES THIS "NEW WORKOUT"...
SECOND TIME AROUND

"...INVOLVE ANY ACTUAL WORK?"
NEW YORK CITY.
THE WATERFRONT.
HA-HA!
I WIN AGAIN!
CASEY JONES. ABOVE-AVERAGE ATHLETE, BELOW-AVERAGE STUDENT, VIGILANTE. A GOOD KID FROM A BAD 'HOOD.
AND YOU LOSE, LOSE, LOSE, YOU BIG FREAKIN'...
GRILL
ATM

...LOS-ERF!
WHUMP
RAPHAEL
TEENAGER, MUTANT, NINJA, TURTLE. SORE LOSER IN A SHELL.
YOU IDIOT! WE'RE FIVE STORIES UP!
YOU JUST FIGURE THAT OUT, EINSTEIN?! NOW I'LL FIND OUT HOW TOUGH YOU REALLY ARE!
DAMN RIGHT, YOU WILL...
...ESPECIALLY IF I DON'T GET MY DANG BAT BACK!
SO YOU LOSE ANOTHER WITTLE BABY BAT? BOO STINKIN' HOO. BIG DEAL.
IT WILL BE, CHUCKLEHEAD...
...IF IT HITS SOMEBODY!
SCHWUP

DUDE, THAT WAS TOTALLY INSANE!
YEAH! LET'S DO IT AGAI—
SCREEEECH
CRASH
WHAT THE...?
FWP FWP FWP FWP FWP FWP
KLUNK
OI...
...WHERE'D YE COME FROM, EH?
HEY, I KNOW THAT GUY. HE'S—
FORGET THE BUM, CASEY—WE GOTTA GET TO THAT CRASH!

HOLY CRAP. DID THE BAT CAUSE THIS?
WHATEVER CAUSED IT, WE GOTTA CALL 9-1-1, BRO—WE TRY TO MOVE THESE GUYS, WE COULD HURT 'EM EVEN WORSE.
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, MAN—YOU SMELL THAT GAS? WE GOTTA GET THESE GUYS OUTTA THIS WRECK BEFORE IT BLOWS UP OR SOMETHIN'.
ERIC CONNER. DRIVER FOR THE SAVATE NINJAS. WORKING ON ONE SERIOUS MIGRAINE.
UGGH...
THE DRIVER'S IN ROUGH SHAPE. THIS AIN'T EVEN COOL, CASEY.
DON'T STRUGGLE, MAN—YOU'LL MAKE IT WORSE. I GOT YOU.
LOUIS ROYO. UNDERWORLD ARBITRATION SPECIALIST. A GO-BETWEEN THUG IN A SUIT.
I'M ALL RIGHT...

YO, TWO SHOES, WHO THE HELL ARE THESE GUYS PULLIN' THOSE MUGS OUT? THAT SOME KINDA WATERMELON SUIT THAT GUY'S WEARIN'?
FORGET HIM, KANADA—WE GOTTA VAMOOSE BEFORE ANYONE IN THAT CAR SPOTS US. I RECOGNIZE THAT LIMO AND THOSE GUYS INSIDE ARE BAD NEWS. WE ARE DEAD MEAT IF WE GET BLAMED FOR THIS CRASH.
YEAH. OKAY. BUT I STILL WANNA KNOW WHY THAT RESCUE GUY'S ALL DRESSED UP IN GREEN LIKE THAT.
KANADA AND TIMMY TWO SHOES. TWO-BIT NO-GOOD CROOKS. HELL, THEY EVEN STOLE THE TWO BITS.
JUST ZIP IT AND KEEP WALKIN', DUMMY, OR YOU'RE GONNA NEED HIM TO RESCUE YOUR BUTT.
CRIPES, FIRST FLYING BATS AND BRIEFCASES, NOW A WATERMELON GUY—WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
THEM THINGS WAS FLYIN', TIMMY, I SWEAR!
CRAP, THIS GUY LOOKS WORSE THAN THE DRIVER.
WHAT THE...? WHO... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? YOU THEM IDIOTS STANDIN' IN THE DAMN MIDDLE OF THE ROAD BEFORE?
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOU—
CRAP! COP CAR JUST SHOWED UP, RAPH!

"WE GOTTA BOOGIE!"
UH... SOMETHIN' TELLS ME THAT AIN'T GONNA BE EASY, BRO— I THINK ANOTHER COP JUST PULLED UP.
DAMN, IS THAT CORBIN? WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE?
NICE AND SLOW, SLINK AWAY BEFORE THEY SPOT US...
MILLER? WHAT THE HELL?!

"HE AIN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS!"
FIVE MINUTES EARLIER...
SO, TELL ME AGAIN, MR. ROYO, HOW MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS...
FERSHID DIAZ. LIEUTENANT FOR THE SAVATE NINJAS. DELIVERING THE GOODS.
...AND HOW DO YOU KNOW WE CAN TRUST THEM?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, FERSHID, ONLY THOSE WHO NEED TO KNOW, KNOW. AND YOU GOT FIVE MILLION REASONS IN THAT BRIEFCASE OF YOURS TO KEEP 'EM HONEST.
OR, PERHAPS, FIVE MILLION REASONS FOR THEM TO BETRAY OUR DEAL. NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES, YES?
YEAH, MAYBE. BUT IF IT TURNS OUT THEY AIN'T ON THE UP-AND-UP LIKE YOU'RE SAYIN'...
NO. UH... I MEAN, YEAH, I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AND ALL BUT, NO, YOU GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'VE DEALT WITH THESE FOOT NINJA CATS BEFORE AND, SCARY AS THEY ARE, THEY GOT THIS HONOR CODE THING THEY FOLLOW LIKE IT'S THEIR DAMN RELIGION OR SOMETHING.
IF THEY SAY THEY'LL DEAL SQUARE, THEN THEY'LL DEAL SQUARE, I GUARANTEE IT.
...I'M BRINGIN' ALONG A LITTLE GUARANTEE OF MY OWN.
PAT PAT
MAX FREZATTO. SAVATE NINJA STRONGMAN AND BODYGUARD. BRAWN, BULLETS, AND BRAGGADOCIO.

IT JUST CAME FROM NOWHERE!
WELL, PICK IT UP!
YOU PICK IT UP!
TRUST ME, MAX, YOU'RE NOT GONNA NEED THE HEAT. IF THE TRIBUTE IS DELIVERED TO SHREDDER'S PEOPLE AS PROMISED, THEY'LL PLAY NICE.
AND HOW DO WE KNOW THESE "PEOPLE" WILL TRANSFER THE GOODS TO THEIR MASTER AND NOT KEEP IT FOR THEMSELVES INSTEAD, HM?
NONE OF THEM ARE NUTSO ENOUGH TO CROSS THEIR BOSS. THAT SHREDDER'S ONE NASTY PIECE OF BUSINESS, LET ME TELL YOU. HE'S—
CRAP!
HOOOOOONK
DAMN, I CAN'T CONTROL IT! I THINK WE'RE GONNA...
SCREEEEECH

CRASH
FWP FWP FWP FWP FWP FWP
DAMMIT, KANADA, I TOLD YOU NOT TO STAND IN THE ROAD!
KLONK
FWP
FWP FWP
TEN-PENNY CAN! FOLKS SURE LIKE TO THROW AWAY EASY MONEY.
KLUNK
HEY! A FLYIN' BRIEFCASE!

OI, WHERE'D YE COME FROM, EH?
KID KENNEDY.
SCOTSMAN AND FORMER BOXER. SLOW WITS, FAST FISTS.
WHOA! NOW THIS IS A RIGHT BEAUTY!
THE PERFECT TARTAN WEEK GIFT FOR OL' FIGHT'N FERGUSON, NAE DOUBT ABOUT IT.
AND THIS TIME O' DAY, FERGIE'LL BE HOLDIN' COURT AT THE SKARA BRAE, I'D WAGER.
I CANNAE WAIT 'TILL HE SEES THIS!
NICE AND SLOW, SLINK AWAY....

WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE THEY SEE US. THAT'S ALL WE NEED—ARRESTED FOR CAUSING A CAR CRASH.
WHADDYA MEAN? YOU HEARD THAT GUY SAY SOMEONE WAS STANDIN' IN THE ROAD. NO WAY THOSE GUYS CRASHED 'CAUSE OF MY BAT.
MAYBE NOT...
...BUT YOU STILL SHOULDA HELD ONTO THE STUPID THING TIGHTER, WIMP.
MILLER.
CORBIN.
DETECTIVES FRANK CORBIN AND RICHARD "DICK" MILLER. VETERAN OFFICERS ON THE SAME CROOKED TAKE. TWO WRONGS MOST DEFINITELY DO NOT MAKE A RIGHT.
IT'S OKAY, FOLKS—WE'RE POLICE. WE'RE GONNA NEED YOU TO STAY BACK FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.
YEAH. WE GOT THIS, PEOPLE.
SO, WHAT, UH... BRINGS YOU HERE?
JUST HAPPENED TO, UM... BE IN THE AREA. YOU?
UH... SAME.
WHAT A FREAKIN' MESS, HUH?
YEAH...

"...YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN."
DON'T EVEN SAY IT AGAIN, KANADA. I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT NO MORE.
BUT, REALLY, TIMMY, THAT CASE WAS FLYIN' LIKE ONE OF THEM UFOS YOU SEE IN THE VIDEOS.
YOU KNOW, OF ALL THE DUMBASS THINGS TO COME OUTTA YOUR MOUTH—AND THERE'S BEEN PLENTY—THAT HAS TO BE THE DUMBEST ONE OF AL—
LOOK! THERE IT IS...
...THE CASE!
MY BONNIE LIES O'ER THE OCEAN... MY BONNIE LIES O'ER THE SEA...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT LIMO WAS FROM THOSE SAVATE GUYS, TIMMY? I'LL BET IT'S GOT SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT IN IT. WE SHOULD SWIPE IT AND FIND OUT.
YOU KNOW, THAT AIN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA, MAN. LET'S DO IT.
WE JUST GOTTA BE CAREFUL. I KNOW THAT MUG AND HE AIN'T AS NICE AS HE LOOKS. CRAZY ENGLISH GUY.
HE AIN'T ENGLISH, KANADA, HE'S IRISH. AND JUST LET ME DO THE TALKIN', WILLYA? I'LL HANDLE 'IM JUST FINE.
YO! IRISH!

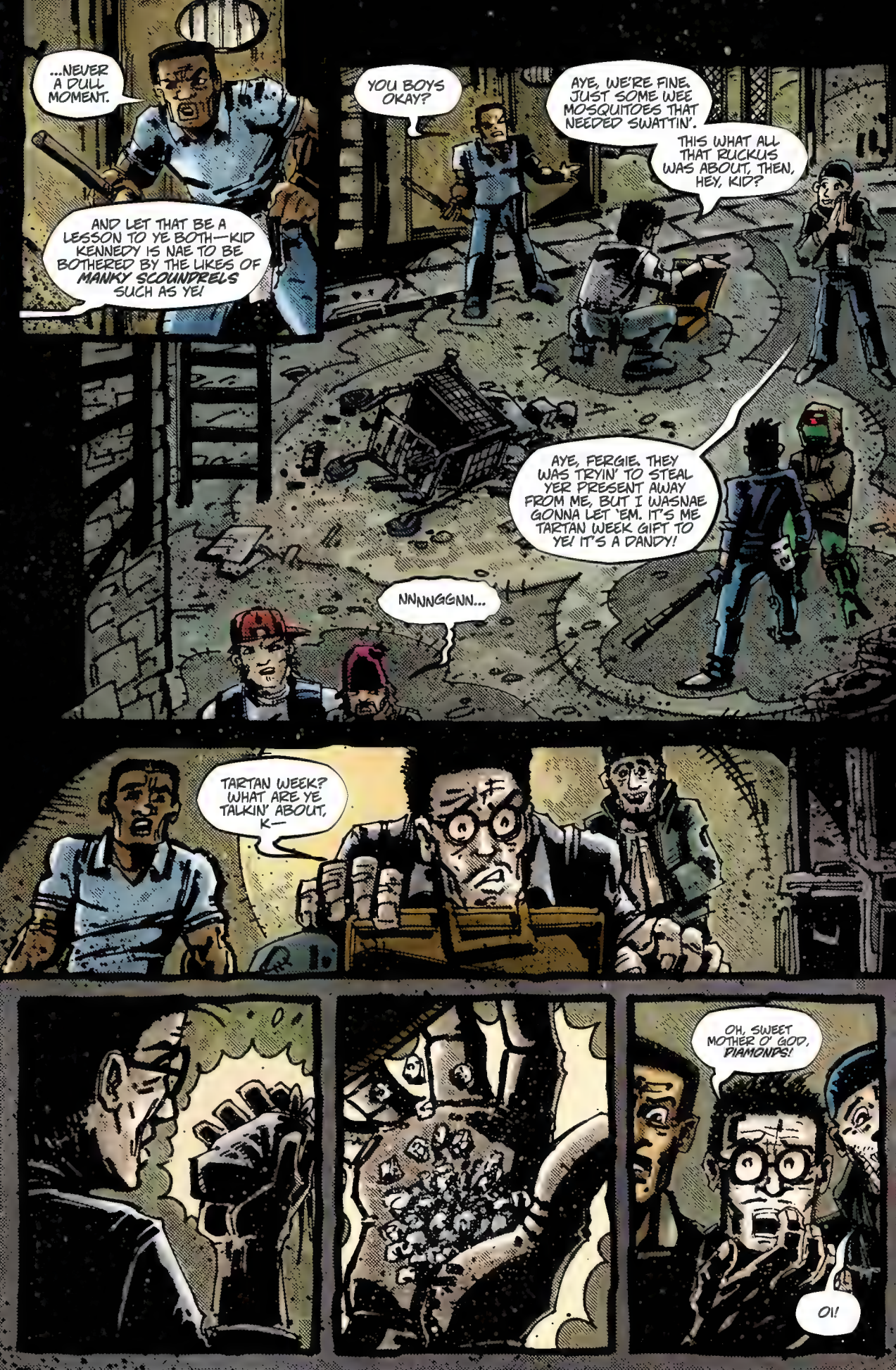
WHO... ME?
YEAH, YA OVERSIZED LEPRECHAUN, WE'RE AFTER YOUR GOLD. HAND OVER THAT CASE YOU GOT THERE.
I'LL HAVE YE KEN I'M SCOTTISH! COME ANY CLOSER AND I'LL KNOCK THE BOTH OF YE CLEAR TO THE HUDSON!
YOU SURE 'BOUT THAT, ROCKY DUMBOA?
AYE... MORE'N SURE!
WELL, ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, HUH, KANADA?
YOU KNOW IT, PAL.

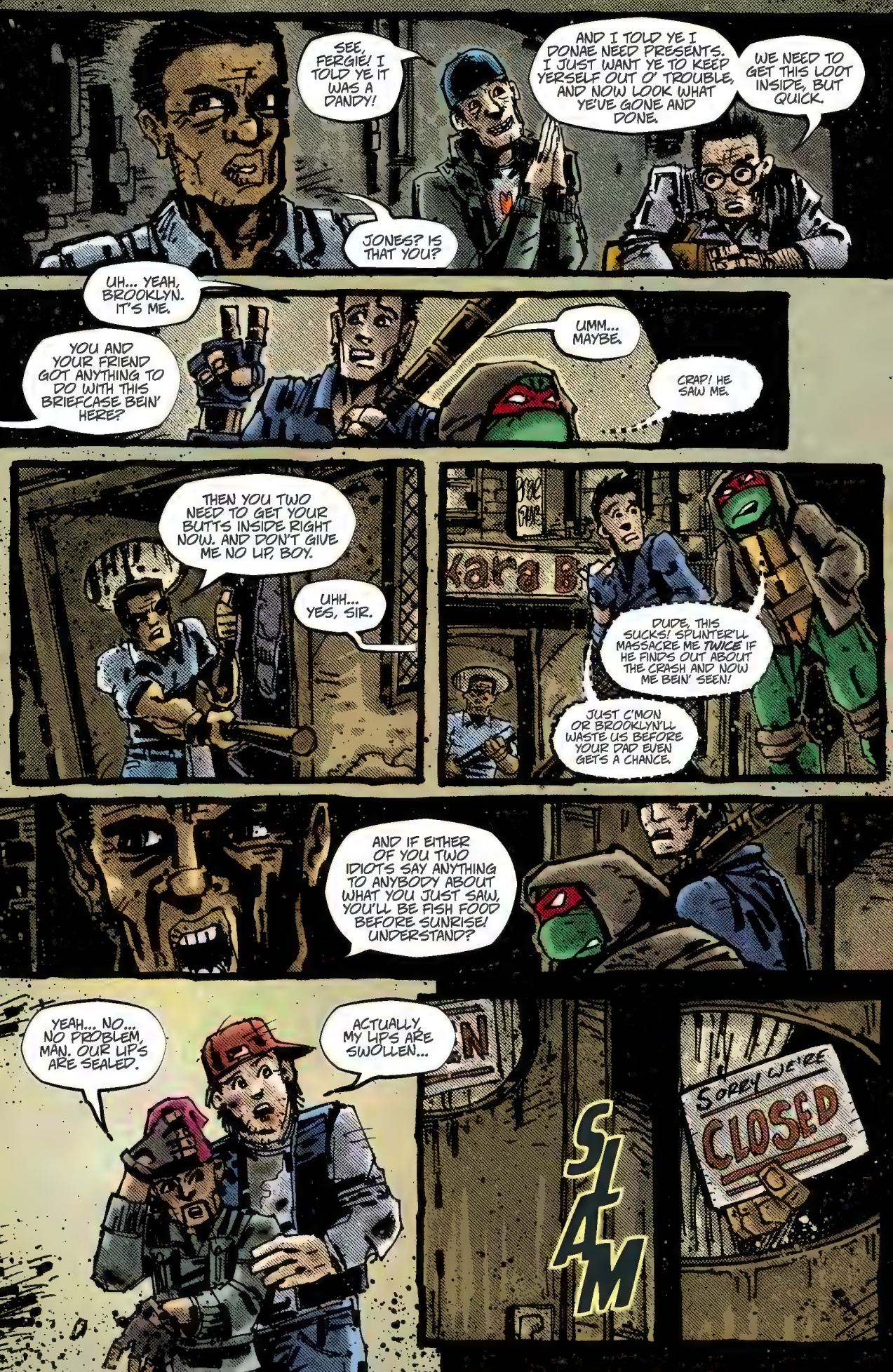
HOLD ON TO 'IM KANADA, I'LL GRAB THE CASE!
I'M... GAH! TRYIN'!
NO... THAT'S... URK! NOT FOR YE!
Skara Brae pub
IT'S LOOSE!
THUNK
OH CRUD.
NOW YE'RE IN FOR IT!

HEY, THAT PUB YOUR OLD MAN HANGS OUT AT— AIN'T IT DOWN THIS WAY?
YEAH, THE SKARA BRAE. WONDER IF ANGEL'S DAD'S BARTENDING TODAY?
AND LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YE BOTH...
SHUMP
WHAT THE—?!
...KID KENNEDY IS NAE TO BE BOTHERED BY THE LIKES OF MANKY SCOUNDRELS SUCH AS YE!
FIGHT'N FERGUSON. FORMER BOXING CHAMPION. SCOT, BANTAM WEIGHT.
WHOA. MOST GUYS GET HAULED AWAY IN AN AMBULANCE AFTER A SWAT FROM OL' FERGIE. THOSE GUYS ARE LUCKY HE TOOK IT EASY ON 'EM
NNNNGGNN...
OL' FERGIE? THAT THE GUY IN THE GLASSES?
YEAH— AND THERE'S ANGEL'S DAD WITH HIS PEACEMAKER.
AND THE CASE FROM THE WRECK. BIG QUESTION IS...

"...WHAT THE HECK'RE THEY DOIN' WITH IT?"
FIVE MINUTES EARLIER...
Skara Brae PUB
Skara Brae
312
OPEN
MAN, I'M FREAKIN' BORED. AIN'T NOTHIN' FUN TO DO 'ROUND HERE WHEN WE GOT NO DINERO. YO, ANGEL—YOU THINK YOUR OLD MAN GOT ANY ODD JOBS NEED DOIN'?
YEAH, HOW ABOUT IT? THINK WE CAN GET SOME GREEN OFF THAT TIGHT-FISTED OLD GEEZER?
MAYBE, CHUN—IF YOUR UGLY FACE DON'T SCARE HIM AWAY FIRST.
YEAH, VERY FUNNY, GIRL.
NOT AS FUNNY AS YOUR FACE.
HEH.
ANGEL. MEMBER OF THE PURPLE DRAGONS AND BROOKLYN'S DAUGHTER. TOUGH CHICK WITH FIGHTIN' STICKS.

SO THIS FELLA WALKS INTO A BAR AND SEES THIS GIRAFFE LYIN' ON THE FLOOR. HE SAYS TO THE BARTENDER—WHO, BY THE WAY, CANNAE HEAR TOO WELL—HE SAYS, "HEY, WHAT'S THAT LYIN' OVER THERE?"
AND THE BARTENDER, HE SAYS, "THAT'S NAE A LION—THAT'S A GIRAFFE!"
HA-HA!
HEH. THAT WAS FUNNIER LAST WEEK, FERGIE.
THE CLASSICS NEVER DIE, BOYO. JUST LIKE US.
BROOKLYN S. BRIDGE. BARTENDER AT THE SKARA BRAE. YES, THAT'S REALLY HIS NAME.
AYE, AND YE BE SURE TO TELL ME HOW THAT GOES, BROOKLYN.
WELL, I AIN'T GONNA DIE IN THIS HOLE, THAT'S FOR SURE. YOU'LL HAVE TO SAVE THOSE OLD JOKES FOR SOMEONE ELSE, OLD MAN, 'CAUSE I'M WORKIN' AND SAVIN' TO GET MY BUTT OUTTA HERE.
YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN I'M LONG GON—
NO... THAT'S... URK! NOT FOR YE!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE KID!
KEEP AN EYE ON ME PINT FOR A BIT, WILL YE, MATE?
HERE WE GO AGAIN...


...NEVER A DULL MOMENT.
AND LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YE BOTH—KID KENNEDY IS NAE TO BE BOTHERED BY THE LIKES OF MANKY SCOUNDRELS SUCH AS YE!
YOU BOYS OKAY?
AYE, WE'RE FINE. JUST SOME WEE MOSQUITOES THAT NEEDED SWATTIN'.
THIS WHAT ALL THAT RUCKUS WAS ABOUT, THEN, HEY, KID?
AYE, FERGIE. THEY WAS TRYIN' TO STEAL YER PRESENT AWAY FROM ME, BUT I WASNAE GONNA LET 'EM. IT'S ME TARTAN WEEK GIFT TO YE! IT'S A DANDY!
NNNNGGNN...
TARTAN WEEK? WHAT ARE YE TALKIN' ABOUT, K—
OH, SWEET MOTHER O' GOD, DIAMONDS!
OI!


SEE, FERGIE! I TOLD YE IT WAS A DANDY!
AND I TOLD YE I DONAE NEED PRESENTS. I JUST WANT YE TO KEEP YERSELF OUT O' TROUBLE, AND NOW LOOK WHAT YE'VE GONE AND DONE.
WE NEED TO GET THIS LOOT INSIDE, BUT QUICK.
JONES? IS THAT YOU?
UH... YEAH, BROOKLYN. IT'S ME.
YOU AND YOUR FRIEND GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS BRIEFCASE BEIN' HERE?
UMM... MAYBE.
CRAP! HE SAW ME.
THEN YOU TWO NEED TO GET YOUR BUTTS INSIDE RIGHT NOW. AND DON'T GIVE ME NO LIP, BOY.
UHH... YES, SIR.
DUDE, THIS SUCKS! SPLINTER'LL MASSACRE ME TWICE IF HE FINDS OUT ABOUT THE CRASH AND NOW ME BEIN' SEEN!
JUST C'MON OR BROOKLYN'LL WASTE US BEFORE YOUR DAD EVEN GETS A CHANCE.
AND IF EITHER OF YOU TWO IDIOTS SAY ANYTHING TO ANYBODY ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST SAW, YOU'LL BE FISH FOOD BEFORE SUNRISE! UNDERSTAND?
YEAH... NO... NO PROBLEM, MAN. OUR LIPS ARE SEALED.
ACTUALLY, MY LIPS ARE SWOLLEN...
SIAM
SORRY WE'RE CLOSED

HOLY...!
WHOA.
OKAY, NOW DON'T NOBODY GET CRAZY. WE GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED. PRETTY AS THOSE DIAMONDS LOOK, AIN'T NOTHIN' GOOD ABOUT THIS.
BROOKLYN'S RIGHT. CASE FULL O' LOOT LIKE THIS LANDS IN YER LAP, TROUBLE'S SURE TO FOLLOW.
KID, WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YE FIND THESE?
THEY JUST FELL OUT O' THE SKY, FERGIE, I SWEAR! LIKE MAGIC!
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOIN', CASEY AND... WEIRD-LOOKIN' FRIEND? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT, ANYWAYS—SOME KINDA COSTUME?
UMM... YES?
WHATEVER. JUST TELL ME HOW THE HELL YOU TWO ARE CAUGHT UP IN THIS.
AYE, LADS— SPILL IT OR I'LL POP YE, TOO! WHAT BLOODY MESS HAVE YE GOTTEN THE KID INTO, EH? YE KEN HE'S NOT ALL THERE—WHY BRING HIM INTO YER THIEVERY?
WHOA, WHOA, HOLD UP FERGIE! I NEVER STOLE NOTHIN' IN MY LIFE.
WHAT ABOUT—
I SEEM TO RECALL—
HA!
WELL, NOTHIN' LIKE THIS, ANYWAYS. ME AND RAPH, WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS JUST LIKE THE KID.
THOSE DIAMONDS CAME FROM THIS CRAZY CAR CRASH A FEW BLOCKS AWAY.

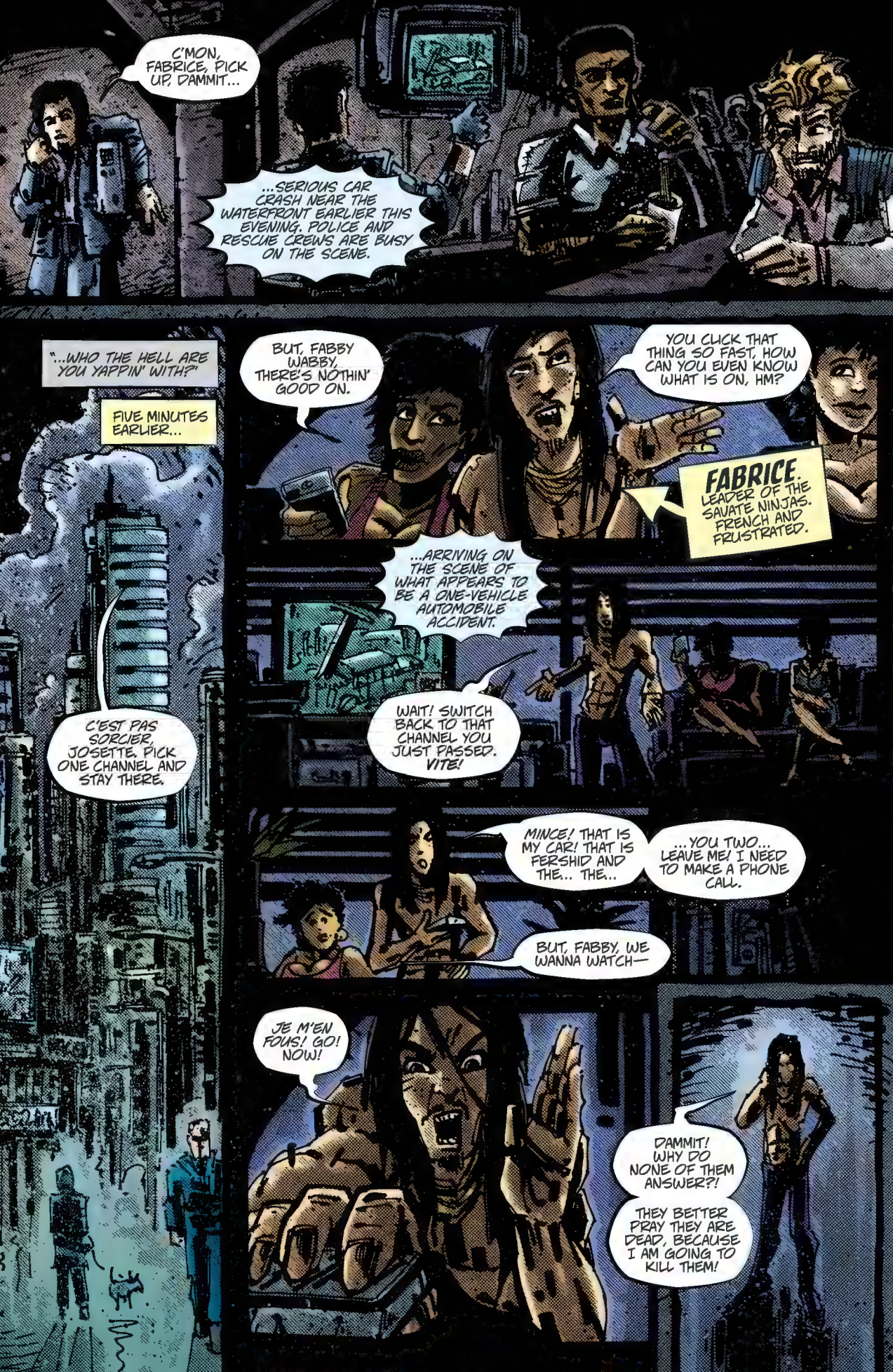
WELL, THEN, HOW ARE THOSE PAIR O' CHOOBS I JUST WALLOPED INVOLVED?
I COULDA TAKEN CARE O' THOSE TWO BY MESELF, FERGIE! I WAS IN THE ZONE— LIKE IN THE GOOD OL' DAYS!
EASY, BOYO... I KEN FULL WELL YE COULDA. I WAS JUST HELPIN' AN' SUCH SO WE DIDNAE HAVE TO TALK TO THE POLICE LIKE LAST TIME YE THREW FISTS.
OH... OKAY, FERGIE. LONG AS YE KEN.
AYE, LAD— I DO.
NOW, LET'S FIGURE THIS WHOLE THING OUT, SHALL WE? AND DON'T THINK I DONAE KEN YOU'RE ONE O' THEM MUTIES, GREEN FELLA. I'M ONLY TRUSTIN' YE BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH YOUNG JONES HERE.
SO, WHY DON'T YE HONOR ME TRUST AND TELL US WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
IT... IT'S LIKE CASEY SAID—WE WERE GOOFIN' AROUND ON THE ROOFTOPS AND HE LOST ONE OF HIS BATS, WHEN WE HEARD THIS CAR CRASH AND WENT TO HELP.
AND THAT'S WHEN WE SAW THAT CASE FLYIN' THROUGH THE AIR AND LAND IN THE KID'S BASKET. BUT THAT'S THE LAST WE SAW IT UNTIL WE GOT HERE, I SWEAR. WE TOOK OFF THIS WAY AFTER THE COPS GOT TO THE CRASH.
AND, THE CRASH— DO YOU KNOW WHO IT WAS?
NUH-UH. LOOKED LIKE A BUNCHA WISEGUYS TO ME, BUT I AIN'T SURE.
IT WAS A HELLUVA NICE CAR, THOUGH— OR IT WAS, BEFORE IT ATE THAT TELEPHONE POLE.

MAN... I'M TELLIN' YOU GUYS, THERE'S A FORTUNE IN DIAMONDS HERE. MILLIONS OF BUCKS WORTH, EASY.
NO WAY THOSE GOONS ARE GONNA FORGET ABOUT THIS LOOT. THEY'RE GONNA COME LOOKIN' FOR IT AND THEN THEY'RE GONNA ERASE WHOEVER IT IS WHO'S GOT IT. AND THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS US.
SO, WE GOTTA GET RID OF IT.
WHAT ARE YE SAYIN', BROOKLYN?
GLAD YOU ASKED, FERGIE.
IT'S GOTTA BE GANG LOOT. IT'D BE A REAL SHAME TO WASTE IT ON LOWLIFES WHO AIN'T GONNA USE THE MONEY FOR NO GOOD PURPOSE.
I KNOW A GUY—GOOD FENCE WHO DON'T ASK NO QUESTIONS. I THINK HE CAN MOVE THESE ROCKS FOR US.
WE ALL TAKE A CUT, SAY OUR GOOD-BYES, AND BUY OUR WAY OUTTA THIS HELLHOLE FOR GOOD.
WAIT A SEC—AIN'T THAT STEALIN'?
LOOK... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
RAPHAEL.
LOOK, RAPHAEL, IT AIN'T LIKE WE'RE SWIPIN' IT FROM THE OFFERING PLATE AT CHURCH, RIGHT? THIS IS BAD MONEY FROM BAD PEOPLE—BUT WE'LL BE USING IT FOR GOOD, WHICH IS, WELL... GOOD, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW...
BANG BANG BANG
DAMMIT, BROOKLYN, OPEN UP! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
CRAP...

"...WHO THE HELL'S THAT?!"
FIVE MINUTES EARLIER...
SO, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO CAUSED THE WRECK? YOU'RE SURE, SIR?
YEAH, I'M SURE. AND WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS "SIR" CRAP, CORBIN?
DAMMIT, MAX, KEEP IT DOWN. MILLER'S ALREADY WONDERIN' WHY I'M HERE—HE FIGURES OUT ME AND YOU KNOW EACH OTHER, THE JIG'S GONNA BE UP.
SORRY, SORRY, MAN. IT'S JUST THIS FREAKIN' CRASH HAS GOT ME ALL OUTTA WHACK. I WAS READY FOR THE AMBUSH, LIKE WE PLANNED. NOT THIS.
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN—THIS HERE'S NOTHIN' BUT A SCREW-UP OF EPIC PROPORTIONS. WE GOTTA FIND THOSE DIAMONDS.
MAKES MORE SENSE FOR A COP TO BE SNOOPIN' AROUND A CRASH SCENE. I'LL SNAG LOUIS AND SWEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
AND IF ONE OF US DOES FIND THEM?
THEN WE GOTTA DO WHAT WE GOTTA DO. I'LL TAKE CARE OF LOUIS...
"...MILLER'S YOUR PROBLEM."
WE GOT A REAL PROBLEM HERE, LOUIS.
DON'T I KNOW IT. I'M A DEAD MAN IF WE DON'T FIND THOSE DIAMONDS, BELIEVE YOU ME.
YOU WEREN'T TOO WORRIED ABOUT DYIN' WHEN WE AGREED TO STEAL THE DAMN THINGS.
WELL, THINGS HAVE CHANGED, HUH? SAVATES ARE GONNA BE ALL OVER THIS PLACE ANY MINUTE, AND THEY'RE GONNA BLAME ME FOR THIS!
NOTHIN'S CHANGED. I'LL FIND THE DIAMONDS AND WE'LL BUG OUT, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED. JUST KEEP THAT GREASE BALL FREZATTO AWAY AND I'LL DO THE REST.
AND THE OTHER COP?
LET ME WORRY ABOUT HIM.

YO, MILLER, THIS GUY'S GOOD TO GO.
UH, YEAH... SAME WITH MY GUY.
SO, CAN WE, Y'KNOW... GO?
YEAH, SURE. WE... WE'LL STICK AROUND HERE AND, UH... MAKE SURE THINGS ARE COPACETIC WITH THE PARAMEDICS AND STUFF.
UH... YEAH. MAYBE, UM... GET ANOTHER GOOD LOOK AT THE CRASH SCENE. JUST IN CASE.
YEAH... JUST IN CASE. RIGHT.
C'MON, LOUIS. LET'S GO FOR A WALK.
MAX, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING? SHOULDN'T WE BE LOOKING FOR THE DIAMONDS?
YEAH, BUT I GOTTA MAKE A PHONE CALL FIRST... LET FABRICE KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON.
AW, CRAP... FABRICE. THAT GUY'S GONNA KILL US WHEN HE FINDS OUT.
YEAH, WELL, HE'LL KILL US WORSE IF WE DON'T CALL 'IM. GIVE ME YOUR PHONE—I LEFT MINE IN THE CAR.
SORRY, PAL—LOOKS LIKE MINE DIDN'T SURVIVE THE CRASH.
OKAY... I KNOW A BOOZE JOINT OVER HERE. WE CAN USE THEIR PHONE. I'LL BUZZ FABRICE REAL QUICK AND THEN—WHAT THE...?
THIS DIVE NEVER CLOSES, 'SPECIALLY NOT THIS EARLY.
BANG BANG BANG
DAMMIT, BROOKLYN, OPEN UP! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

CASEY—QUICK! HIDE THAT CASE BEHIND THE BAR.
THE REST OF YOU, JUST CHILL AND ACT NORMAL.
UH... YEAH.
AS NORMAL AS YOU CAN, AT LEAST.
MAN, WE ARE DEAD.
YO, MAX, MY MAN—WHAT'S UP?
WHAT'S UP? YOU GOT YOUR DOORS LOCKED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF HAPPY HOUR—WHAT'S UP WITH *YOU?*
OH, NOTHIN', MAN. JUST A LITTLE PRIVATE BASH TONIGHT. NO BIG THING.
PRIVATE... WHAT? GIVE ME A STINKIN' BREAK, MAN.
I GOTTA USE YOUR PHONE—QUIT BLOCKIN' THE DAMN DOOR, WOULDJA?
UH... YEAH... SURE. C'MON IN, MAX.
DON'T MEAN TO BUST UP YOUR LITTLE *PARTY.* WE AIN'T GONNA BE HERE LONG.
HEY, BARKEEP, POUR ME A PINT—THE COLDER THE BETTER. AND TURN THAT TV UP, WILLYA?
A PINT? YEAH... UMM...
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT, CASEY. YOU GET THE TV...
...I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MAN'S THIRST.


C'MON, FABRICE, PICK UP, DAMMIT...
...SERIOUS CAR CRASH NEAR THE WATERFRONT EARLIER THIS EVENING. POLICE AND RESCUE CREWS ARE BUSY ON THE SCENE.
"...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU YAPPIN' WITH?"
FIVE MINUTES EARLIER...
C'EST PAS SORCIER, JOSETTE. PICK ONE CHANNEL AND STAY THERE.
BUT, FABBY WABBY, THERE'S NOTHIN' GOOD ON.
YOU CLICK THAT THING SO FAST, HOW CAN YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT IS ON, HM?
FABRICE. LEADER OF THE SAVATE NINJAS. FRENCH AND FRUSTRATED.
...ARRIVING ON THE SCENE OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A ONE-VEHICLE AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.
WAIT! SWITCH BACK TO THAT CHANNEL YOU JUST PASSED. VITE!
MINCE! THAT IS MY CAR! THAT IS FERSHID AND THE... THE...
...YOU TWO... LEAVE ME! I NEED TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.
BUT, FABBY, WE WANNA WATCH—
JE M'EN FOUS! GO! NOW!
DAMMIT! WHY DO NONE OF THEM ANSWER?!
THEY BETTER PRAY THEY ARE DEAD, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO KILL THEM!

RING RING
WHA—?!
RA RAE
1:45
WHO IS THIS?!
IT'S MAX, BOSS.
MAX?! I HAVE BEEN CALLING YOU—I HEARD ABOUT THE CAR CRASH. WHAT IS THIS NUMBER YOU ARE USING?
BAR DOWN HERE NEAR THE DOCKS...
...MY PHONE GOT LOST IN THE CRASH AND I THINK LOUIS' GOT SMASHED.
LOUIS IS WITH YOU? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
YEAH, LOUIS IS HERE, BUT FERSHID AND CONNER GOT BANGED UP PRETTY BAD. AMBULANCE HAS 'EM.
AND THE... DELIVERY?
UH, YEAH...
...WE'RE STILL LOOKIN' FOR THAT.
WHAT?! C'EST PAS VRAI!
YOU CAN FIND A BAR BUT YOU CANNOT FIND MY DIAMONDS?!
WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR 'EM, BOSS—OR, WE WILL BE. JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU KNEW 'BOUT THE ACCIDENT.
ACCIDENT?!
JE N'EN REVIENS PAS! THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT! SOMEONE—I DO NOT KNOW WHO—IS SETTING US UP, I JUST KNOW IT!
LEAVE THAT BAR, MAX—GO BACK TO THE "ACCIDENT" AND I WILL SEND VICTOR WITH A TROOP OF SAVATES TO HELP YOU TO EITHER FIND MY DAMN DIAMONDS... OR KILL WHOEVER HAS THEM!
VICTOR!
KSSSH

WHAT'S GOING ON, BOSS? YOU OKAY?
NO, I AM NOT OKAY! THERE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM WITH THE DELIVERY—A CRASH!
VICTOR. SAVATE SECOND-IN-COMMAND. SICK OF BEING TREATED LIKE NUMBER TWO.
YEAH... I SAW THE NEWS.
THEN YOU KNOW WHERE YOU NEED TO GO. TAKE YOUR BEST MEN AND SCOUR THAT SCENE.
I WILL NOT BE DISRESPECTED THIS WAY, DAMMIT! I WANTED TO CUT A PEACEFUL DEAL, BUT IF IT'S WAR THEY WANT, I WILL GIVE THEM WAR!
GO, VICTOR. BRING ME MY DIAMONDS...
"...OR BRING ME SOME HEADS!"
MILLER, IS THAT YOU?
YEAH, VICTOR.
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
EVERYTHING'S SCREWED UP. ALL I KNOW IS THE DIAMONDS AIN'T NOWHERE TO BE FOUND AND NOT FOR LACK OF SEARCHIN', NEITHER.
AND LOUIS?
HE'S SHADOWIN' FREZATTO RIGHT NOW. TRYIN' TO KEEP THE PLACE TO MYSELF AS MUCH AS I CAN. BUT, VICTOR...
...CORBIN'S HERE.
DAMN.
OKAY, LISTEN... JUST KEEP LOOKING AND I'LL BE THERE WITH MY GUYS SHORTLY. WE CAN'T LET FABRICE GET THOSE DIAMONDS BACK OR OUR WHOLE PLAN'S SHOT TO HELL.
THIS IS A COLOSSAL MESS...

"...AND I INTEND TO CLEAN IT UP BEFORE IT GETS ANY MESSIER."
FIVE MINUTES EARLIER.
MAN, WHAT A MESS...
ANTIQUES
SECOND TIME AROUND
...WHOSE TURN IS IT TO WASH THE DISHES, ANYWAY?
RAPH'S—WHO ELSE?
GOOFING OFF—WHAT ELSE?
WELL, HE NEEDS TO GET BACK HERE AND DO IT BEFORE THESE THINGS GROW LEGS AND RUN AWAY. WHAT'RE HE AND CASEY UP TO, ANYWAY?
MICHELANGELO, RETURN TO THE PROGRAM YOU JUST PASSED.
BUT, SENSEI—
QUICKLY!
FINE.
MAN, I WISH DONNIE'D BUILD US A DVR.
...SERIOUS CAR CRASH NEAR THE WATERFRONT EARLIER THIS EVENING. POLICE AND RESCUE CREWS ARE BUSY ON THE SCENE.
WITNESSES CLAIM A PAIR OF EARLY HALLOWEEN REVELERS IN COSTUME JUMPED IN TO HELP THE INJURED PASSENGERS. OUR CAMERA CAUGHT THE ALLEGED MASKED SAMARITANS AS THEY DEPARTED THE SCENE—
IBC BREAKING
RAPHAEL.
AND CASEY! COOL!
NO. NOT COOL.

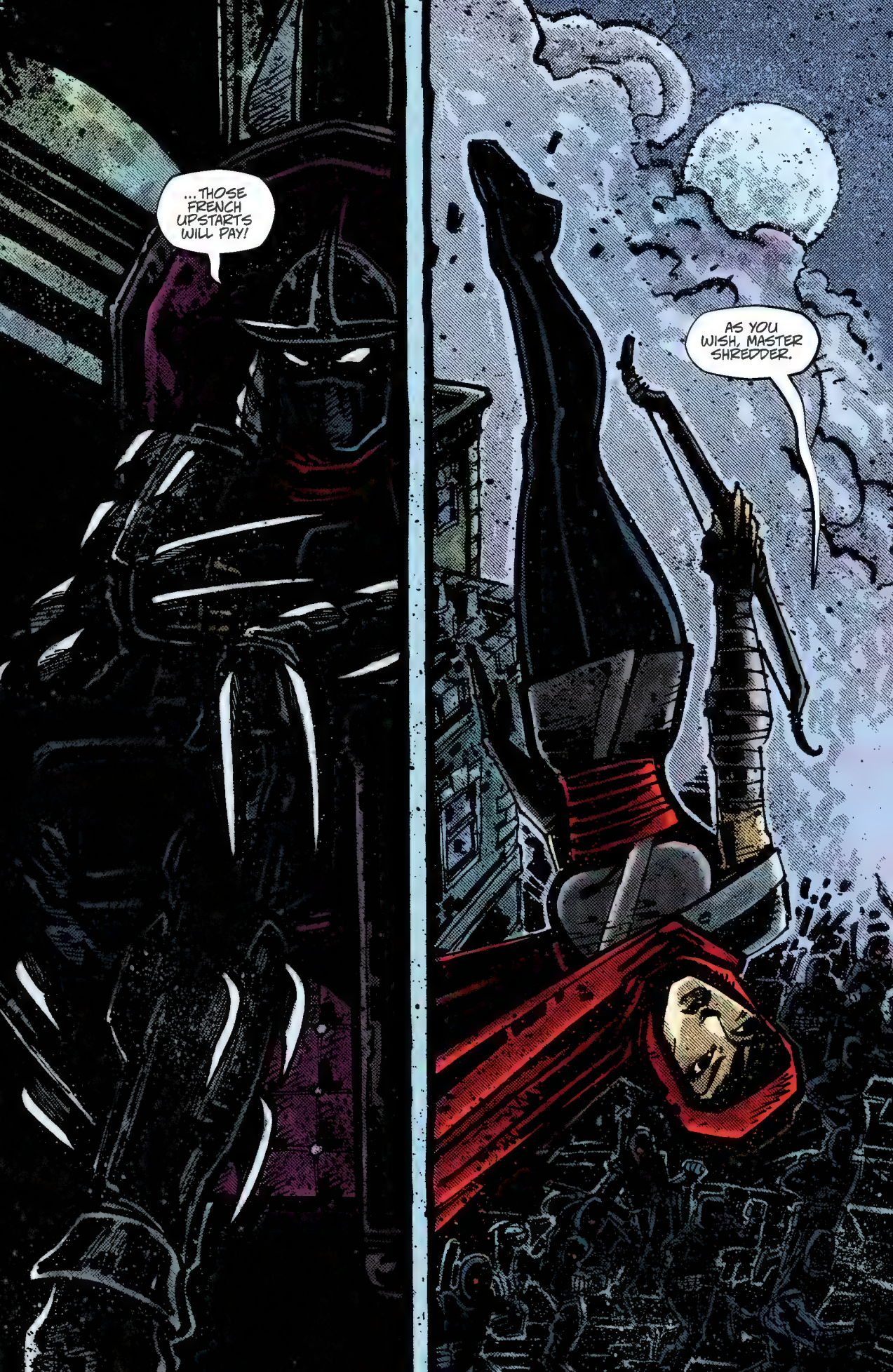
LEONARDO, TAKE YOUR BROTHERS, FIND RAPHAEL AND CASEY JONES, AND BRING THEM HERE AS QUICKLY—AND QUIETLY—AS POSSIBLE.
YES, SENSEI.
RAPHAEL THREATENS TO EXPOSE US ALL WITH HIS ILL-TIMED HEROICS.
UH, MASTER... YOU CAN HAVE THE REMOTE CONTROL NOW.
MICHELANGELO, NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR...
...HM. THANK YOU, MY SON.
OKAY, THE NEWS LADY SAID THE WRECK WAS NEAR THE DOCKS. THAT'S A START, BUT IT REALLY DOESN'T HELP NARROW DOWN WHERE RAPH AND CASEY ARE.
NOW, WHICH CHANNEL ARE MY STORIES ON?
WHOA, BROS! CHECK IT OUT!
SAVATE!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU WANTED NARROWING, LEO, SOMETHING TELLS ME WE JUST GOT IT.
AGREED. LET'S GO.
FIRST RAPH'S ON THE TV AND NOW SAVATE NINJA DUDES ARE AFTER HIM?
MAN, HE IS GONNA BE SO BUSTED WHEN HE GETS HOME.

YOU MEAN, IF HE GETS HOME, MIKEY.

C'MON, C'MON...
CORBIN.
CORBIN, IT'S MAX.
MAX, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I'M AT THE SKARA BRAE—PLACE IS FULL OF WEIRDOS AND LOUIS IS BUSY WITH A PINT. I'M WORKIN' ON SHAKIN' HIM SO I CAN HEAD BACK THAT WAY AND HELP YOU LOOK FOR THE STUFF.
MAX
WELL, THE STUFF AIN'T HERE, MAN—EVEN WITH THAT BASTARD MILLER BREATHIN' DOWN MY NECK THE WHOLE TIME, I LOOKED HIGH AND LOW AND NOTHIN'.
THERE'S SOME FUNNY BUSINESS GOIN' ON HERE AND I DON'T LIKE IT... NOT ONE STINKIN' BIT.
YEAH... YEAH, I HEAR YA.
LOOK, JUST DUMP ROYO AND GET YOUR ASS BACK HERE. WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO HIT THIS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.
C'MON, LOUIS. FABRICE WENT NUCLEAR AND SENT VICTOR AND A BUNCH OF HIS SAVATES TO THE CRASH. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET 'EM THERE.
OH, MAN, VICTOR? THIS IS VERY BAD, MY FRIEND, BELIEVE YOU ME.
DID YOU HEAR THAT, CASEY? SAVATES, MAN. WE GOTTA GO GET MY BROTHERS—NO WAY WE CAN FIGHT THOSE YAHOOS ALONE.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT FIGHTIN'...

...I TOLD YOU GUYS, I CAN TURN THESE DIAMONDS INTO DOUGH. WE ALL GET RICH AND WE ALL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS AND NOT ONE DROP OF BLOOD SPILLED IN THE PROCESS.
WHADDYA SAY?
NO!
LISTEN, LAD, WE KEN YE GOT GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT THE RISK IS NAE WORTH THE REWARD IN ME BOOK.
AYE! WE GOTTA DO THE RIGHT THING AND GIVE IT TO THE COPS!
NAH, KID, THE LADS IN BLUE WILL ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS. I'M THINKIN' THE BEST PLAN IS TO DUMP THE CASE— DIAMONDS AND ALL— BACK AT THE ACCIDENT. LET THE COPS FIND IT ON THEIR OWN.
YEAH? AND WHICH ONE OF US SUPPOSED TO DO THAT, FERGIE?
ME!
KID KENNEDY!

"WE HAVE RETURNED FROM OUR RECONNAISSANCE AS ORDERED, KARAI."
"AND?"
THE NEWS REPORTS ARE TRUE—THERE WAS A CAR CRASH.
WHAT ABOUT THE DIAMONDS?
NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
DISAPPOINTING.
INDEED.
KARAI. FOOT NINJA SECOND-IN-COMMAND. SERIOUS GRANDDADDY ISSUES.
MASTER SHREDDER. FOOT NINJA LEADER. SHARP MIND, SHARP TONGUE, SHARP ARMOR.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO, GRANDFATHER?
I WOULD HAVE YOU RETRIEVE MY DIAMONDS, KARAI. WHAT ELSE?
TAKE YOUR BEST NINJA—GO TO THE CRASH SITE AND SEIZE THE TRIBUTE THAT WAS PROMISED TO US. DO SO BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...


...THOSE FRENCH UPSTARTS WILL PAY!
AS YOU WISH, MASTER SHREDDER.

YO, LOUIS, DO ME A FAVOR, WOULDJA? STAND GUARD IN THE ALLEY WHILE I TAKE A LEAK.
SERIOUSLY, MAX? NOW?
YEAH, MAN, I REALLY GOTTA GO.
FINE. JUST MAKE IT QUICK.
OH, THIS WON'T EVEN TAKE A SECOND.
WE GOTTA GET THE BRIEFCASE, KANADA.
WAIT, MAX, YOU HEAR THAT?
HUH?
YEAH, BUT HOW WE GONNA GET IT FROM BROOKLYN, TWO SHOES?
IN THE ALLEY— SOMEONE KNOWS ABOUT THE DIAMONDS. C'MON.
YEAH. RIGHT.
WE'RE GONNA NEED A HEATER, MAN. GO INTO THE SKARA BRAE GUNS-A-BLAZIN'.
BUT WHERE WE GONNA FIND GUNS THAT FAST?
TURN AROUND.
HOLY—!
NOW WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT A BRIEFCASE?

BRIEFCASE? DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' 'BOUT.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT NOW, PINHEAD?
UH... YEAH, MAN... UM... THE BRIEFCASE? SURE. WE KNOW.
IT... IT'S AT THE SKARA BRAE. BARTENDER'S GOT IT. H-HIM AND THOSE FEEB IRISH TWITS.
BROOKLYN.
THAT BASTARD.
WE GOTTA GET BACK THERE.
WHAT ABOUT US?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YOU GOT PHONES?
Y-YEAH... SURE. HERE YOU GO.
FWAK
THANKS.
WHAK
LOUIS, YOU GO AHEAD. I... I STILL GOTTA TAKE THAT LEAK.
UH... YEAH... OKAY.
CORBIN, IT'S MAX. I KNOW WHERE THE DIAMONDS ARE.
MILLER, IT'S LOUIS. I KNOW WHERE THE DIAMONDS ARE.

THE DIAMONDS? WHERE?
THE DIAMONDS? THE SKARA BRAE? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
FABRICE, THIS IS FERSHID. I KNOW WHERE THE DIAMONDS ARE, PATRON.
WHAT?!
A PUB? DAMN!
I AM HEADING THAT WAY, FERSHID! I WILL HANDLE THIS PERSONALLY!
TAKE MY DIAMONDS, HEIN? THEY ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

DAMN, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
HAD TO DITCH CORBIN. THAT THE PLACE?
YEAH. COUPLE OF DUMBASSES TOLD US THE DIAMONDS ARE IN THERE, CORBIN.
DAMN. CAN'T DECIDE IF THAT'S CONVENIENT OR INCONVENIENT.
WELL, 'LEAST WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. WHERE'S ROYO?
IN THE PUB, FAR AS I KNOW.
THAT GONNA BE A PROBLEM?
NO, NO PROBLEM...
...NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

GUYS? REALLY? I... I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE FLUSHIN' THIS ALL AWAY. WE COULD BE SO STINKIN' RICH.
NAH, BROOKLYN, WE'D BE THE POORER FOR IT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY IT'D BRING US. IN YER HEART, YE KNOW THAT'S TRUE.
BUT... BUT... AH, HELL, FINE. TAKE IT. GO.
WE BEST BE GOIN', KID. TIME TO GET THESE DIAMONDS BACK WHERE THEY BELONG.
EMPLOYEES ONLY!!
LIKE REAL HEROES, EH, BROOKLYN?
YEAH... YEAH, KID. WE'RE REAL HEROES.
DAMN.
CASEY, THIS AIN'T RIGHT. WHAT IF THE SAVATES FIND THEM OLD DUDES? WE GOTTA MAKE SURE THEY'RE OKAY.
YEAH, OKAY. LET'S GO.
MAN, I WISH MY BROTHERS WERE HERE. WE GOT OURSELVES IN DEEP THIS TIME, BRO.
I KNOW. WE'LL JUST HA—HEY, WAITAMINUTE! LOOK!
THAT AIN'T WHERE THE CRASH WAS. WHERE'RE THOSE OLD COOTS GOIN'?
DUNNO. C'MON!
CRIPES! WHAT A CRAZY DAY.
YEAH—WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DROP THAT STUPID BAT, MAN?
SHUT UP, RAPH.
HEY, ANGEL, AIN'T THAT YOUR AMIGO CASEY AND ONE OF THEM MUTANT TURTLES?
YEAH...
... BUT WHY THE HELL THEY RUNNIN' AWAY FROM MY DAD'S BAR LIKE THAT?

BUT, FERGIE, I THOUGHT YE SAID WE WERE GONNA PUT THE DIAMONDS BACK.
I DID, BOYO, BUT THAT WAS JUST SO WE COULD GET AWAY. IF WE GIVE 'EM BACK, WE'LL ONLY BE HELPIN' BAD FOLKS.
WE KEEP 'EM, WE CAN FINALLY GET YE THAT OPERATION YE BEEN NEEDIN'—GET YER HEAD BACK WORKIN' RIGHT AGAIN. WOULDNAE THAT BE GOOD NOW, MATE?
AYE, I SUPPOSE, BUT—
NO BUTS, BOYO. THIS... THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY KNOCKIN' ON OUR DOOR. WE GET THE MONEY, WE GET YE BETTER, AND WE GET HOME TO SCOTLAND LIKE WE'VE BEEN WANTIN' FOR SO LONG.
NOW, DOESNAE THAT SOUND LOVELY? THESE DIAMONDS ARE THE ANSWER TO OUR BEST DREAMS, KID, TRULY.
OR, YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES.
FF AUTO
I'M AFRAID SCOTLAND'S NOT IN THE CARDS FOR YOU, GENTLEMEN.
GIVE ME THE DIAMONDS, OR YOUR NEXT TRIP WILL BE TO AN EARLY GRAVE.
NO...
...I DON'T THINK SO.
NEITHER DO WE.

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
ABOUT, REPTILE?
THIS IS ABOUT WHAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO THE FOOT CLAN.
RAAH!
YAAH!
ATTACK!
CASEY, WHATEVER YOU DO...
...DON'T LOSE YOUR BAT NOW.
YEAH... RIGHT.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! PUT THE GUNS DOWN, GUYS! WHAT THE HELL?!
THE DIAMONDS, BROOKLYN—WE KNOW THEY'RE HERE!
YEAH. HAND 'EM OVER!
YOU AIN'T GETTIN' JACK!
HEY, POPS, WHAT'S UP WITH CASEY AND— WHOA!
DAMMIT, ANGEL, WHAT YOU DOING HERE?!
I WAS COMIN' TO BORROW TWENTY BUCKS, BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GETTING SHOT WITH YOU, INSTEAD.
NO ONE'S GETTIN' SHOT!
LISTEN, ALL OF YOU! THERE AIN'T NO DIAMONDS! TEAR THE PLACE APART IF YOU WANT—YOU AIN'T GONNA FIND ANYTHING.
TEAR THE PLACE APART?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCELLENT IDEA.
SAVATES...
...ATTACK!
AW, MAN!

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I WON'T WORK HERE IN THE SUMMER, DAD!
ROYO! FREZATTO! YOU TURNCOATS WILL PAY!
DAMMIT, CORBIN, THIS AIN'T GOOD!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M DONE DEALIN' WITH THESE FREAKIN' NINJAS!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT CERTAIN WAR DOWN UPON US! YOU WILL DIE FOR THAT!
NO, FABRICE, WAI— GRK!
KRAK
ACK!
NEXT TIME, WE WORK TOGETHER. DEAL?!
DEAL!
ANGEL, DROP THOSE STICKS AND PICK UP THE PHONE!

CALL THE COPS, CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT... HELL, CALL THE MARINES!
SWAT 1, THIS IS CENTRAL.
WE NEED UNITS EN ROUTE TO THE SKARA BRAE PUB DIVERTED TO THE SURROUNDING DOCKS.
SWAT
MULTIPLE CALLS COMING IN OF A MAJOR DISTURBANCE THERE THAT MAY BE RELATED.
ROGER THAT, CENTRAL.

RAPH, WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU GOTTEN INTO?
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, LEO? KINDA BUSY RIGHT NOW!
FOOL! DO YOU NOT REALIZE THE CALAMITY YOU BRING UPON YOURSELVES SHOULD YOU REFUSE THE TRIBUTE DEMANDED OF OUR MASTER?!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, GIRL! FABRICE MAY BOW DOWN TO YOU PATHETIC FOOT, BUT I NEVER WILL!
JUST LIKE THE OL' DAYS, HEY, FERGIE?!
AYE, BOYO!
I HOPE I LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE OL' DAYS!
THIS ISN'T OUR FIGHT! WE NEED TO GET RAPH AND CASEY AND GET THE HECK OUTTA HERE!
YOU DON'T GOTTA CONVINCE ME, BRO—TELL IT TO THESE GUYS!
THE BRIEFCASE! SAVATE, GET IT!
FOOT NINJA! RETRIEVE THE DIAMONDS FOR OUR MASTER!
AW...

I GOT IT!
NO, THIS BELONGS TO OUR MASTER!
FOOT!
CATCH!
FOOT, MISS!
MERCI BEAUCOUP!
JE L'AI!
OUF!
'SCUSE MY FRENCH!

FOOT, MEET FOOT!
UFF!
LOOK THERE, FERGIE—IT'S YER TARTAN GIFT!
AYE!
BATTER UP!
FWAP
KRAK
I...
...HAVE IT!

IT IS MINE, FOOL!
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT!
VERY WELL!
AS I SAID, THE CASE IS...
...MINE!

WISE MAN SAY, FORGET LUCK, USE A CHUCK!
OKAY, WHO'S NEXT?
OH.
FWP FWP FWP FWP
WHOULF!
FWP FWP FWP FWP
YOU KNOW, I COULDA HAD A BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP, TOO.

AND THE CROWD GOES WILD!

YOU GUYS WANT THIS, HUH?
THEN GO GET IT!
IDIOT!
YEAH—NOT THE FIRST TIME I BEEN CALLED THAT! I'M OUTTA HERE!
AYE! US, TOO!
THIS IS THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT! YOU WILL STAND DOWN! NOW!
COPS! DISAPPEAR, GUYS!
FOOT, VANISH!
SAVATE, FALL BACK!

STAND DOWN, TEAM...
...NOTHING HERE BUT A STINKING BASEBALL BAT.

THE NEXT DAY.
LOOKS LIKE FABRICE AND HIS BOYS AIN'T TOO HAPPY, EH, CORBIN? TOO BAD, 'CAUSE THEIR TRIP UP THE RIVER'S JUST STARTIN'.
YEAH, AND WE'RE LUCKY WE'RE NOT IN THERE WITH THEM. I'M TELLIN' YOU, NO MORE NINJAS.
I HEAR YA. MATTER OF FACT, I GOT SOMETHIN' ELSE IN THE WORKS—NO NINJAS WHATSOEVER.
DO TELL...
MASTER, THE NEW LEADER OF THE SAVATE IS STUBBORN. HE DOES NOT FEAR US THE WAY HIS PREDECESSOR DID. THERE WILL BE NO TRIBUTE FROM HIM.
THEN WE WILL TEACH HIM HOW TO FEAR US, KARAI... AND ALL OTHERS WHO DARE STAND IN OUR WAY.
THE TRIBUTE WOULD HAVE BOUGHT THE SAVATE PROTECTION FROM MY WRATH. BUT NOW THAT THE DIAMONDS ARE LOST...
...THE ONLY PAYMENT I WILL ACCEPT IS THEIR VERY LIVES.
SO YOU'RE REALLY IN CHARGE NOW, VIKKI-POO?
YES, JOSETTE—AT LEAST UNTIL FABRICE FINDS HIS WAY OUT OF PRISON. WHICH WON'T BE FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
UNTIL THEN, THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT AROUND HERE, YOU'LL SEE.
SO THIS GUY WALKS INTO A BAR AND SEES THIS GIRAFFE LYIN' ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO THE BAR.
OI! I LIKE THIS ONE!
SHOOT ME NOW.
SO, YOU STILL WANNA LOOK FOR THAT FLYIN' BRIEFCASE, TWO SHOES?
DON'T TALK TO ME, KANADA. EVER AGAIN.

DUDE, I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS THIS MANY DISHES IN THE WORLD.
YOUR DAD'S PRETTY MAD, HUH?
YOU AIN'T KIDDIN'.
YEAH. STILL, COULDA BEEN WORSE.
I'D RATHER HAVE DISHPAN HANDS THAN HIS WALKING STICK UP WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE.
TRUE DAT.
SO, YOU KNOW WHATCHA WANNA DO WHEN WE GET THESE THINGS DONE?
OH... I GOT AN IDEA OR TWO.

HA-HA! I WIN AGAIN!
AND YOU LOSE, LOSE, LOSE, YOU BIG FREAKIN'...
...LOS-ERF!
WHUMP
THE END.

Art by KEVIN EASTMAN

ISSUE #21

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

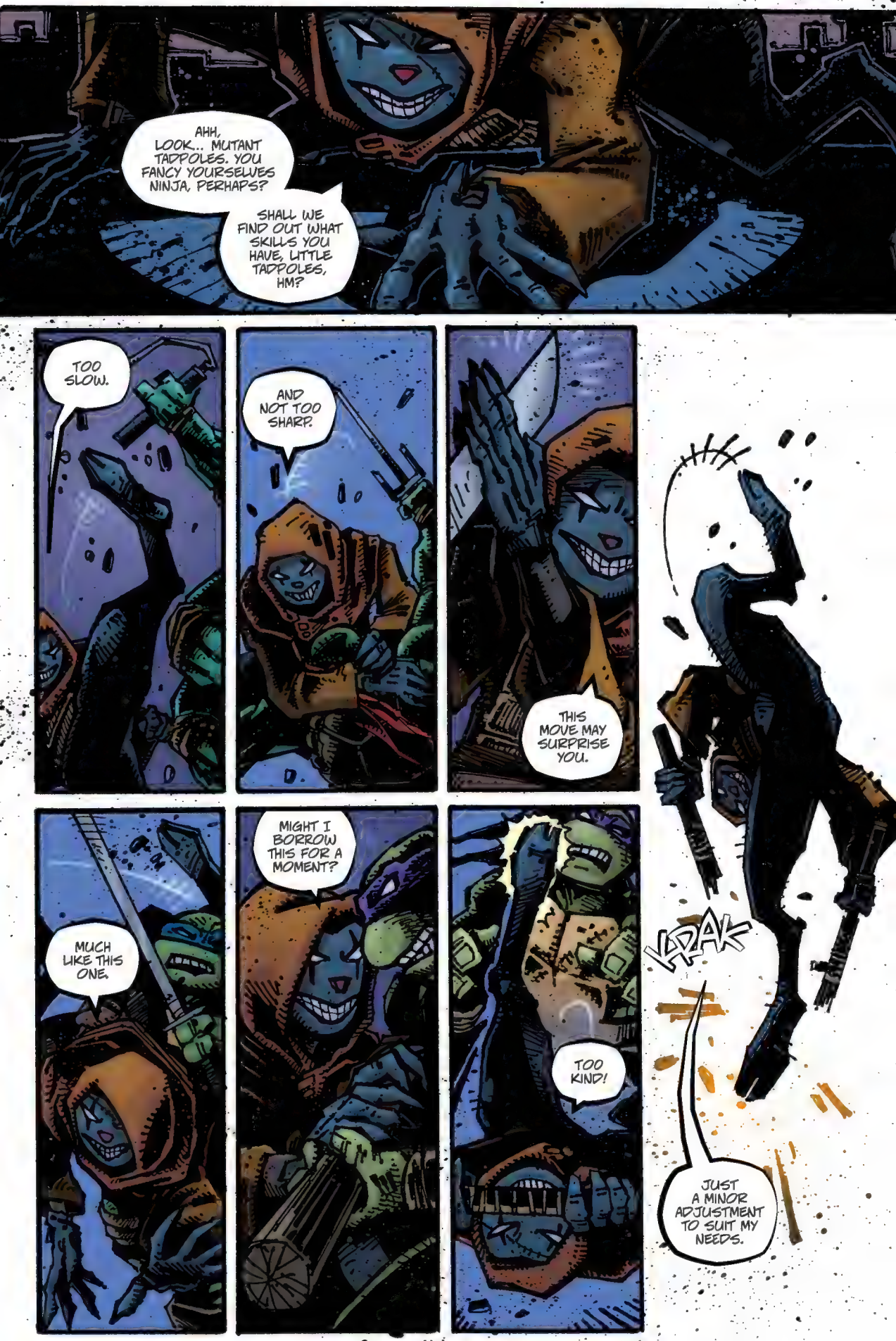
NEW YORK CITY.
ALL RIGHT, GUYS—TRAINING'S DONE FOR THE NIGHT. DINNER TIME.
MAN, IS IT JUST ME, OR DO THINGS SEEM, I DUNNO... MORE TENSE THAN NORMAL IN THE CITY?
IT'S NOT JUST YOU, DONNIE—I'VE NOTICED IT, TOO. SEEMS LIKE THERE'S BEEN A LOT LESS PETTY CRIME LATELY BUT A LOT MORE VIOLENT STUFF.
ME AND CASEY WERE JUST TALKIN' 'BOUT THE SAME THING THE OTHER DAY. WHOLE DAMN CITY SEEMS TWITCHY FOR SOME REASON.
UH... GUYS...

GAH!

HYAH!

WHO THE—?

GUYS, DEFEND YOURSELVES!


AHH, LOOK... MUTANT TADPOLES. YOU FANCY YOURSELVES NINJA, PERHAPS?
SHALL WE FIND OUT WHAT SKILLS YOU HAVE, LITTLE TADPOLES, HM?
TOO SLOW.
AND NOT TOO SHARP.
THIS MOVE MAY SURPRISE YOU.
KRAK
JUST A MINOR ADJUSTMENT TO SUIT MY NEEDS.
MUCH LIKE THIS ONE.
MIGHT I BORROW THIS FOR A MOMENT?
TOO KIND!

HAVE YOU TOADS EVER HEARD OF THE FILIPINO ART OF KALI, HM?
IT'S AN EXTRAORDINARILY EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORM USING SHORT STICKS—MUCH LIKE THESE. PERFECT FOR MULTIPLE ATTACKERS.
SHALL I DEMONSTRATE? AFTER ALL...

...SEEING IS BELIEVING!

YOU MAY HAVE SWORDS...

...AND SAI...

...NUNCHAKU, EVEN.

BUT SKILLS?

SADLY, NO.

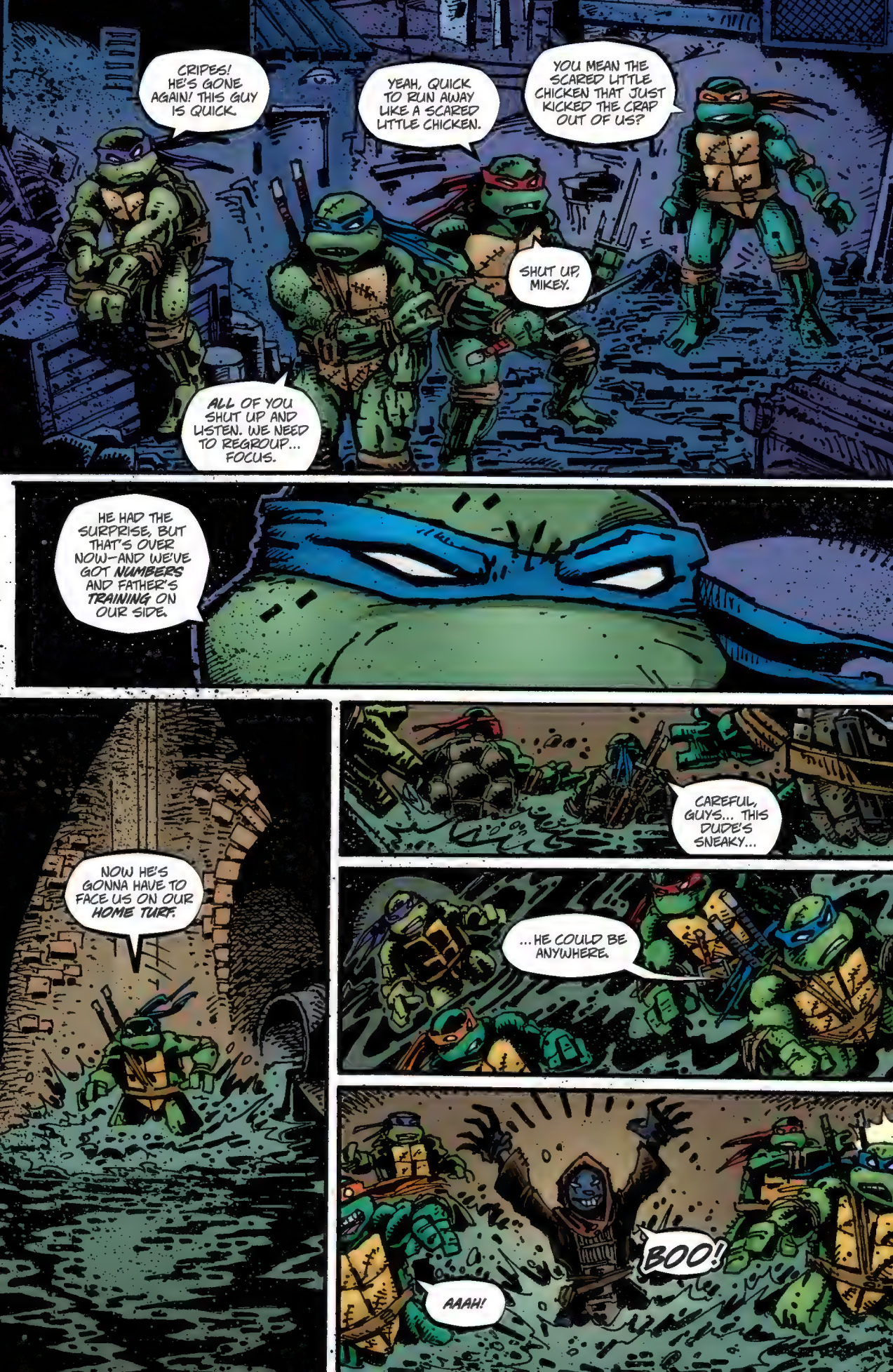
BANG! BANG! YOU TADPOLES ARE DEAD.
SUCH DREADFUL STUDENTS—I PITY THE FAILED TEACHER WHO TRAINED YOU SO POORLY.

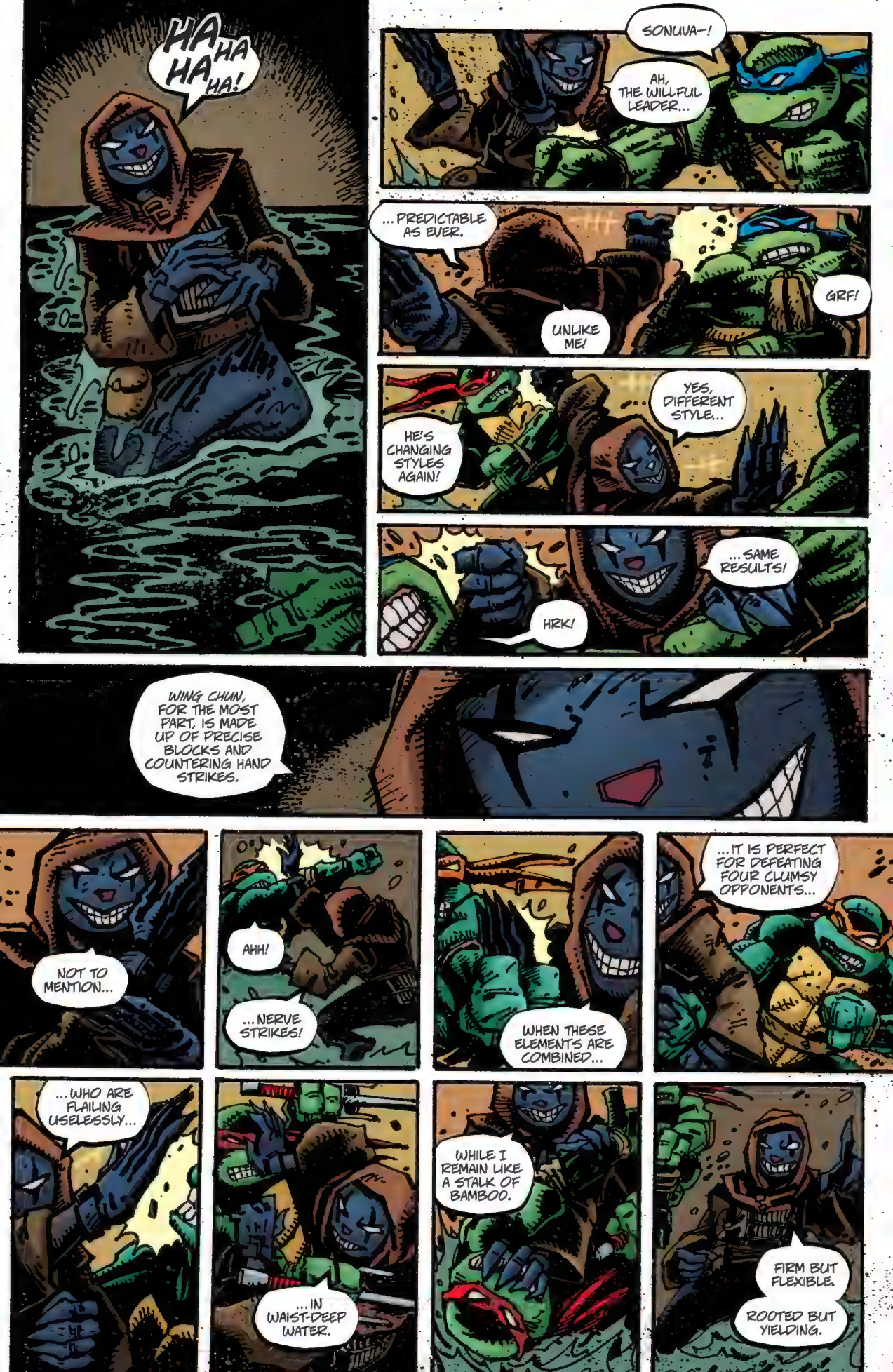
AND THAT WOULD BE THE OLD, DECREPIT RAT...
...HIDING IN THAT OLD, DECREPIT CHURCH, HM?
ADIEU!
WHO...
...THE HELL...
...WAS...
...THAT?!
HE KNOWS ABOUT FATHER.
AND THE CHURCH!
OH... MAN.
LET'S MOVE!

NO MORE MESSING AROUND, GUYS—WE STOP THIS CLOWN, WHATEVER IT TAKES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BROKE MY STAFF.
THAT'S NOTHIN' COMPARED TO THE WAY I'M GONNA BREAK HIS FACE AFTER I SLAP THAT STUPID MASK OFFA IT!

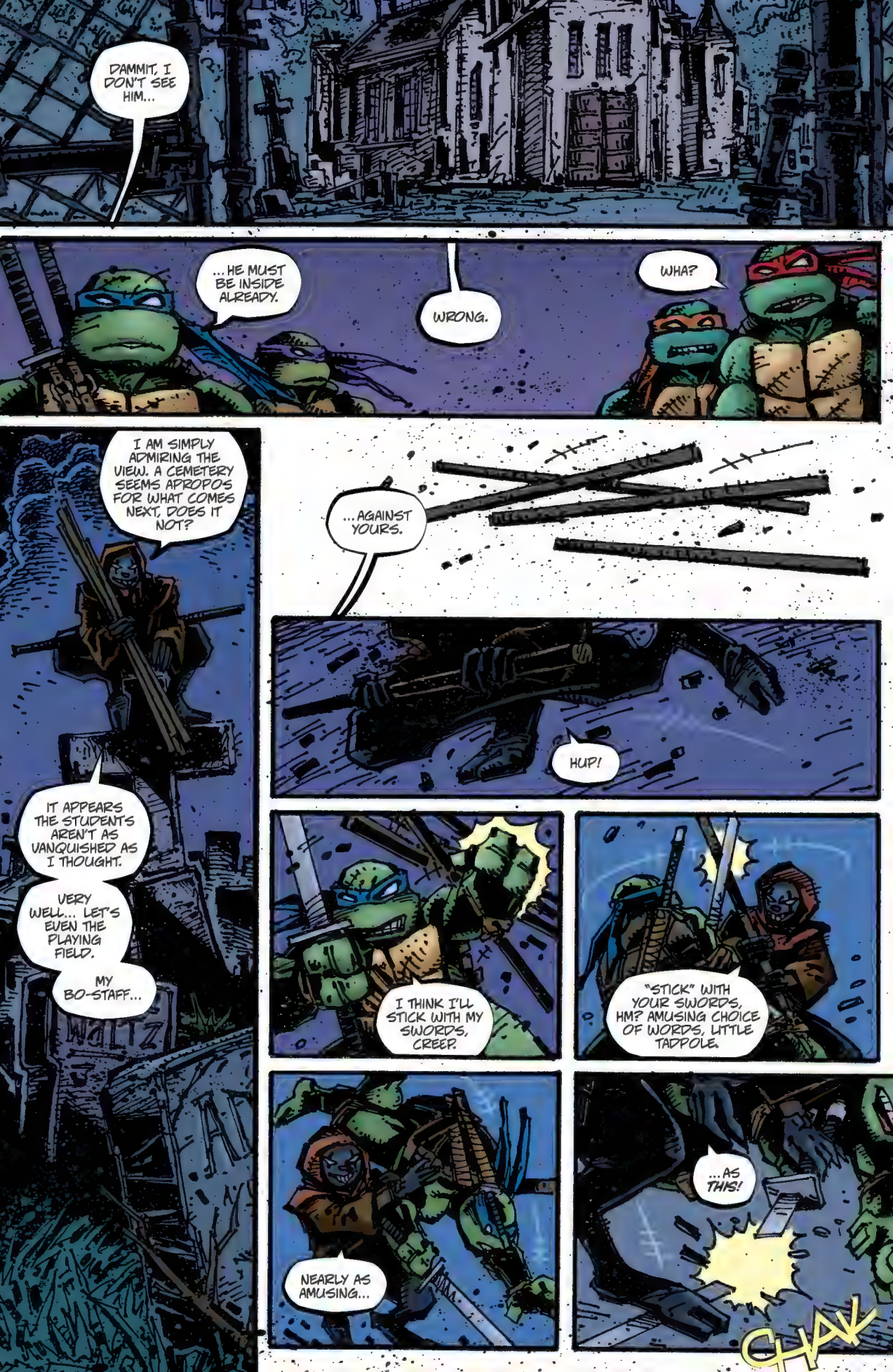
MAN, HE'S FAST!
THIS GUY FOOT, OR WHAT?
THE WAY HE WAS FIGHTING, HE'S GOTTA BE!
WHICH WAY'D HE GO?
NINTH STREET MARKET
FRESH
DOWN HERE!
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES.
A NOTE? SERIOUSLY?
HANG TIGHT, GUYS. THIS IS A SETUP.
OH YEAH?
BRING IT!
RAPH! WAIT!
AH, THE IMPETUOUS STUDENTS...
...HERE FOR YOUR FRENCH LESSONS, HM?
ALLEZ OUP!
HE'S MOVING JUST LIKE THOSE FRENCH SAVATE GUYS!
FRENCH? I THOUGHT HE WAS FILIPINO.
NOT COMPLETELY BRAINLESS, IT APPEARS.
YOU RECOGNIZE MY STYLE?
KLOD
YET STUPID NONETHELESS.

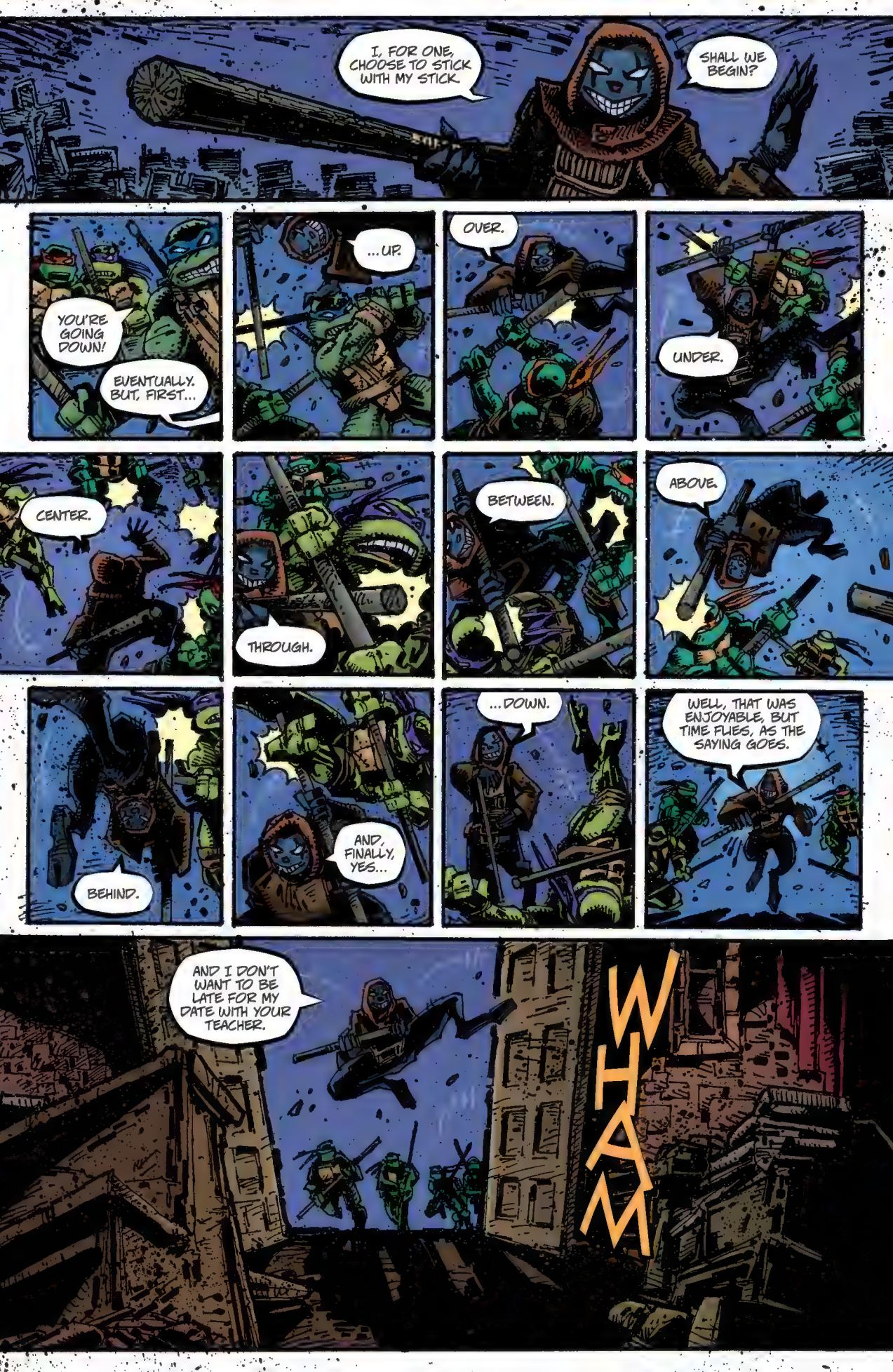
THE ART OF FINE CUISINE IS BUT ONE OF MANY THINGS THE FRENCH EXCEL AT.
TAKE THE ARTS OF SAVATE AND PARKOUR, FOR EXAMPLE.
TODAY'S LESSON INCLUDES...
...CHASSE!
FREE RUNNING!
REVERS!
REDISTRIBUTION!
YAH!
WHOULF!
FOUETTE!
GNF!
AND, FINALLY, LIKE ANY TRUE TRACEUR...
...LEAVE...
...NO...
...TRACE!


CRIPES! HE'S GONE AGAIN! THIS GUY IS QUICK.
YEAH, QUICK TO RUN AWAY LIKE A SCARED LITTLE CHICKEN.
YOU MEAN THE SCARED LITTLE CHICKEN THAT JUST KICKED THE CRAP OUT OF US?
SHUT UP, MIKEY.
ALL OF YOU SHUT UP AND LISTEN. WE NEED TO REGROUP... FOCUS.
HE HAD THE SURPRISE, BUT THAT'S OVER NOW—AND WE'VE GOT NUMBERS AND FATHER'S TRAINING ON OUR SIDE.
NOW HE'S GONNA HAVE TO FACE US ON OUR HOME TURF.
CAREFUL, GUYS... THIS DUDE'S SNEAKY...
...HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
BOO!
AAAH!


HA HA HA HA!
SONUVA-!
AH, THE WILLFUL LEADER...
...PREDICTABLE AS EVER.
UNLIKE ME!
GRF!
HE'S CHANGING STYLES AGAIN!
YES, DIFFERENT STYLE..
...SAME RESULTS!
HRK!
WING CHUN, FOR THE MOST PART, IS MADE UP OF PRECISE BLOCKS AND COUNTERING HAND STRIKES.
NOT TO MENTION...
AHH!
...NERVE STRIKES!
WHEN THESE ELEMENTS ARE COMBINED...
...IT IS PERFECT FOR DEFEATING FOUR CLUMSY OPPONENTS...
...WHO ARE FLAILING USELESSLY...
...IN WAIST-DEEP WATER.
WHILE I REMAIN LIKE A STALK OF BAMBOO.
FIRM BUT FLEXIBLE.
ROOTED BUT YIELDING.

I'LL BAMBOO YOU, YA STINKIN' FOOT JER—
I THINK...
...NOT!
GAK!
IT MATTERS NOT HOW YOU ATTACK—I WILL SIMPLY GLIDE THROUGH YOU LIKE THE WIND...
...CHOOSING THE MOMENT WHEN I STRIKE.
IT SEEMS I WAS MISTAKEN, HM? YOU FOUR DO POSSESS GREAT SKILL.
YOU HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF FAILING.
I AM NEITHER FOOT NOR SAVATE. I LURK IN THE SHADOWS, THE UNKNOWN FOE. YOU DO NOT KNOW ME YET... BUT YOU WILL.
AND SO, I HAVE DEFEATED THE STUDENTS. NOW IT IS MY RIGHT TO FACE THE SENSEI IN HIS DOJO. FAREWELL!
RAAGH!
BASTARD'S GONNA PAY!
JUST COOL IT AND HURRY, GUYS!
THE CHURCH IS ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY!


DAMMIT, I DON'T SEE HIM...
...HE MUST BE INSIDE ALREADY.
WRONG.
WHA?
I AM SIMPLY ADMIRING THE VIEW. A CEMETERY SEEMS APROPOS FOR WHAT COMES NEXT, DOES IT NOT?
...AGAINST YOURS.
HUP!
IT APPEARS THE STUDENTS AREN'T AS VANQUISHED AS I THOUGHT.
VERY WELL... LET'S EVEN THE PLAYING FIELD.
MY BO-STAFF...
I THINK I'LL STICK WITH MY SWORDS, CREEP.
"STICK" WITH YOUR SWORDS, HM? AMUSING CHOICE OF WORDS, LITTLE TADPOLE.
NEARLY AS AMUSING...
...AS THIS!
CHAK


I, FOR ONE, CHOOSE TO STICK WITH MY STICK.
SHALL WE BEGIN?
YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
EVENTUALLY. BUT, FIRST...
...UP.
OVER.
UNDER.
CENTER.
THROUGH.
BETWEEN.
ABOVE.
BEHIND.
AND, FINALLY, YES...
...DOWN.
WELL, THAT WAS ENJOYABLE, BUT TIME FLIES, AS THE SAYING GOES.
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR MY DATE WITH YOUR TEACHER.
WHAM

HOLD UP!
YEAH. WE AIN'T DONE WITH YOU YET, CREEPY.
SO, YOU WOULD DANCE WITH ME AGAIN, LITTLE TADPOLES?
WELL, I SUPPOSE FOOLISHNESS WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT PERSISTENCE, WOULD IT?
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO REFUSE.

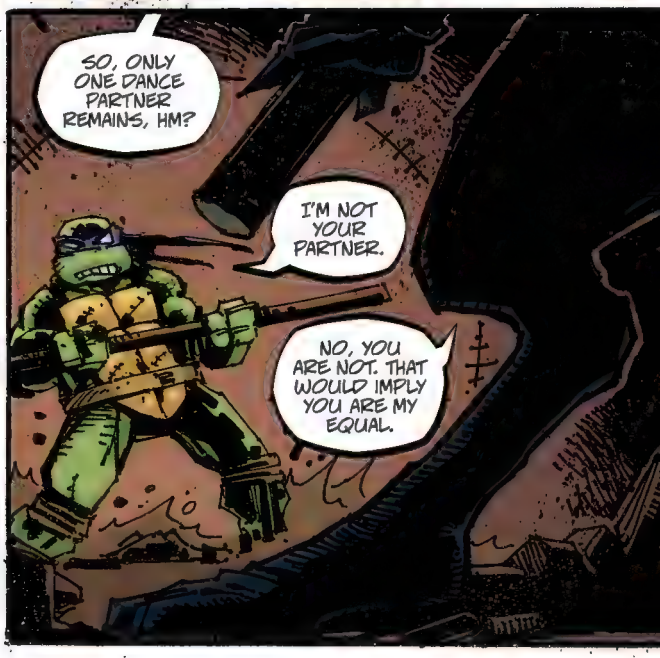
HRK!

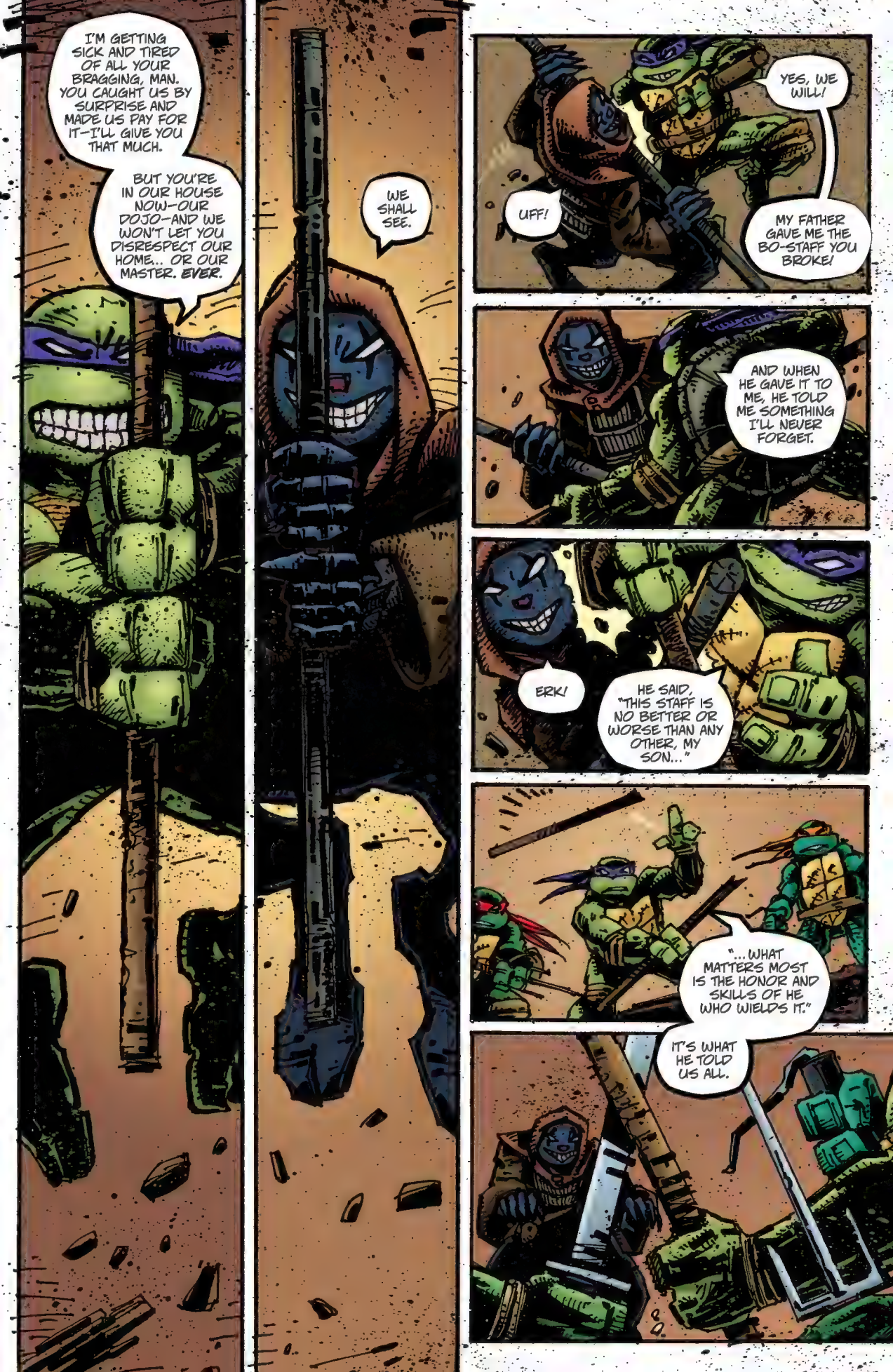
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER...

FWAK

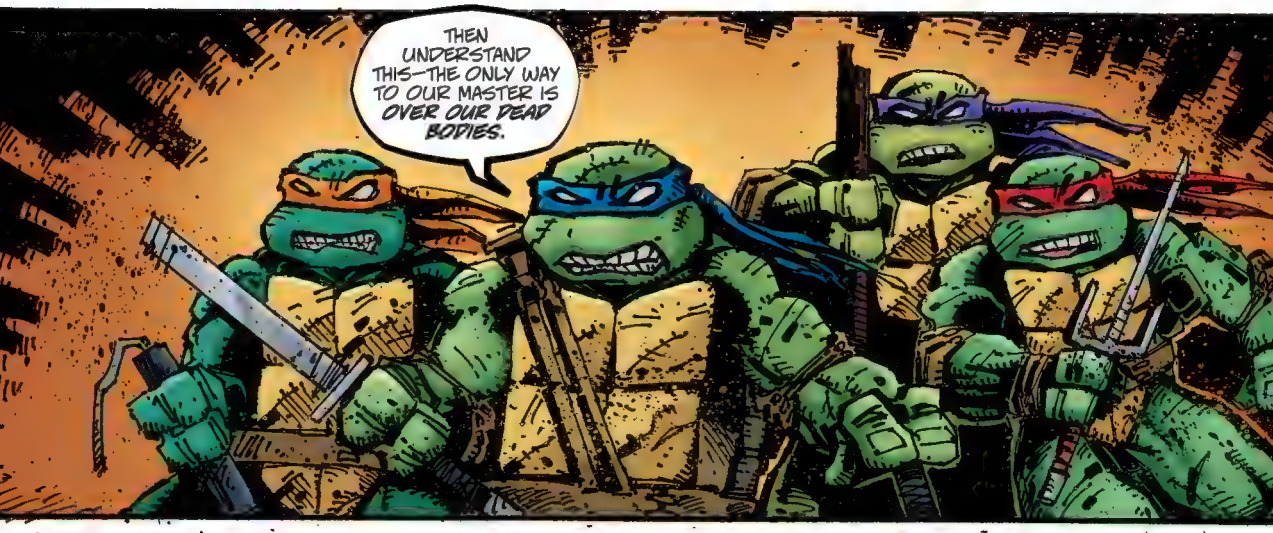
...THAT WHEN IT COMES TO DANCING...

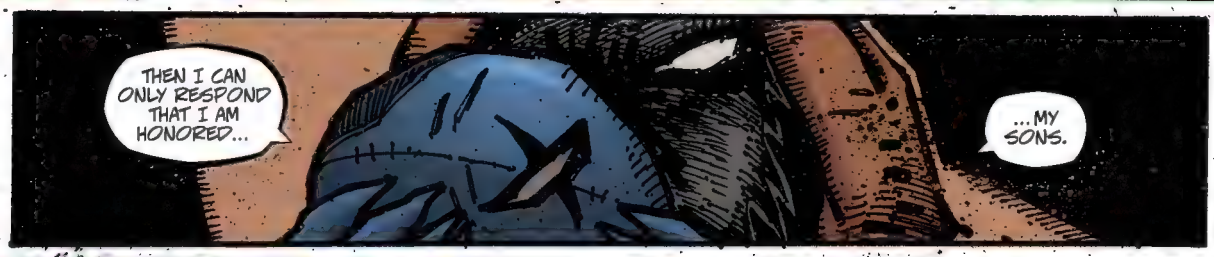
...I ALWAYS PREFER TO TAKE THE LEAD.


SO, ONLY ONE DANCE PARTNER REMAINS, HM?
I'M NOT YOUR PARTNER.
NO, YOU ARE NOT. THAT WOULD IMPLY YOU ARE MY EQUAL.


I'M GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF ALL YOUR BRAGGING, MAN. YOU CAUGHT US BY SURPRISE AND MADE US PAY FOR IT—I'LL GIVE YOU THAT MUCH.
BUT YOU'RE IN OUR HOUSE NOW—OUR DOJO—AND WE WON'T LET YOU DISRESPECT OUR HOME... OR OUR MASTER. EVER.
WE SHALL SEE.
YES, WE WILL!
UFF!
MY FATHER GAVE ME THE BO-STAFF YOU BROKE!
AND WHEN HE GAVE IT TO ME, HE TOLD ME SOMETHING I'LL NEVER FORGET.
ERK!
HE SAID, "THIS STAFF IS NO BETTER OR WORSE THAN ANY OTHER, MY SON..."
"...WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THE HONOR AND SKILLS OF HE WHO WIELDS IT."
IT'S WHAT HE TOLD US ALL.

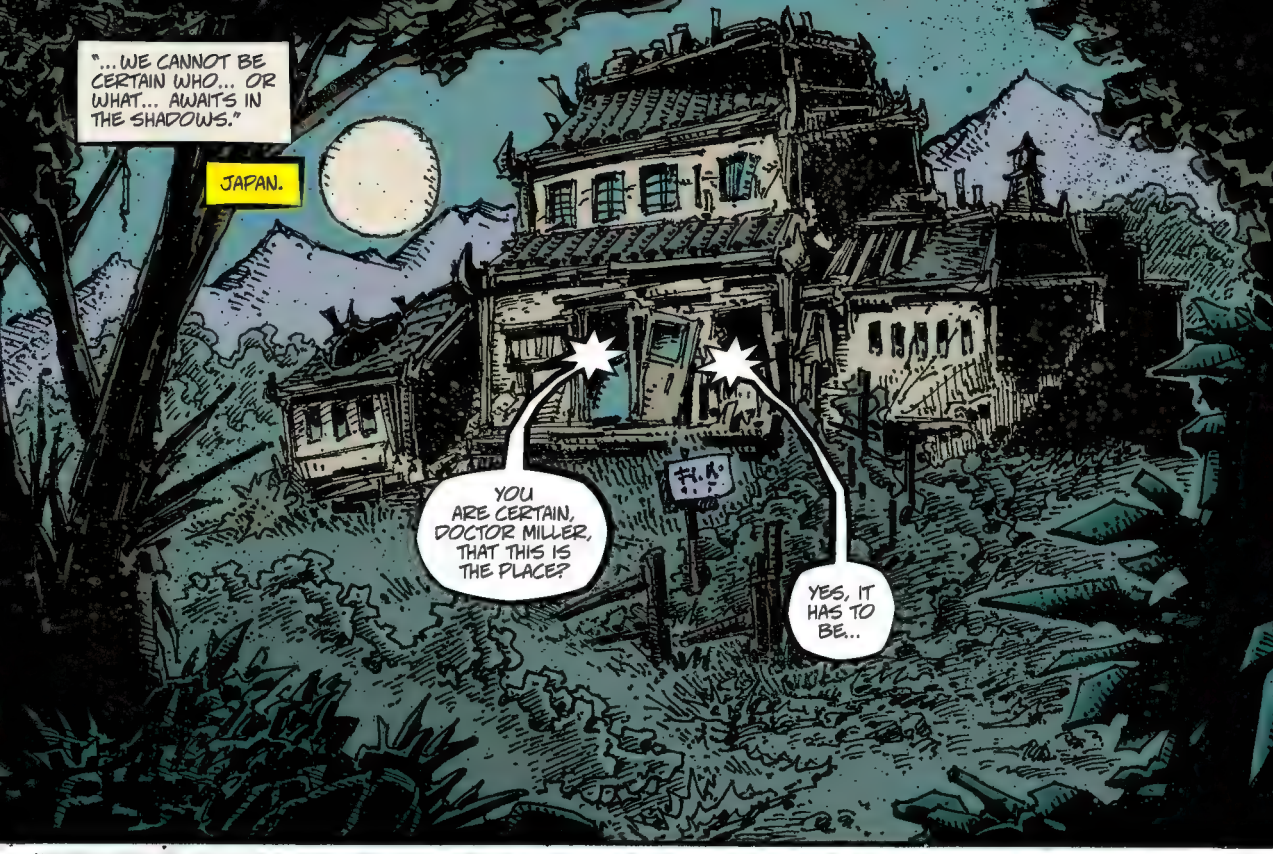
SO, YOU HAVE SOME COURAGE IN YOU AFTER ALL. PITY YOU'VE FOUND IT TOO LATE.
I AM THROUGH TOYING WITH THE FOUR OF YOU—OUR GAME ENDS NOW.
HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU AND ALL, BUT NOTHIN' ENDS TILL WE SAY IT DOES!
YEAH, DUDE! WE'RE JUST GETTING' WARMED UP!
YOUR BRAGGADOCIO IS PRECIOUS. BUT I MUST DISAPPOINT YOU.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO CALL ON YOUR MASTER.

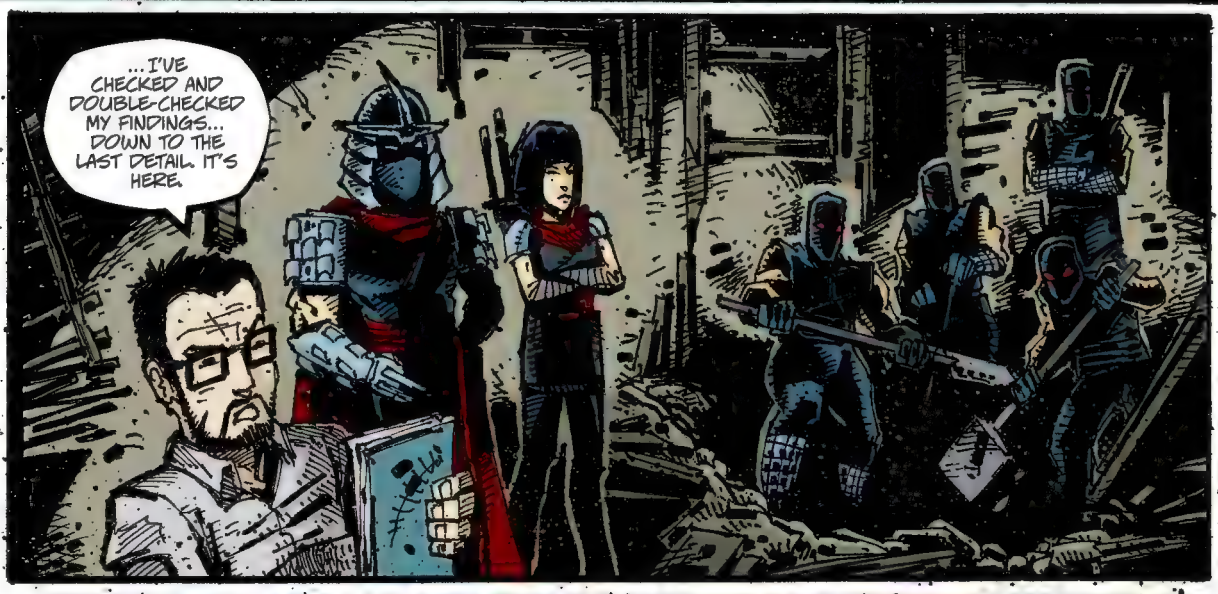

THEN UNDERSTAND THIS—THE ONLY WAY TO OUR MASTER IS OVER OUR DEAD BODIES.


THEN I CAN ONLY RESPOND THAT I AM HONORED...
...MY SONS.

FATHER?!
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME THIS SHOCK—I REALIZE THIS MUST BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU, JUST AS IT IS DIFFICULT FOR A FATHER TO BE SO HARD ON HIS SONS, EVEN WHEN HE KNOWS HE MUST.

TRUE BALANCE COMES, MY SONS, NOT ONLY FROM LEARNING, BUT FROM UN-LEARNING, AS WELL.
YOU HAVE EACH MASTERED THE FIGHTING STYLES I HAVE TAUGHT YOU. BUT AS OUR MANY BATTLES HAVE SURELY SHOWN US, OUR ENEMIES DO NOT ALWAYS BEHAVE IN A PREDICTABLE WAY... AND NEITHER SHOULD WE.
I, LIKE YOU, SENSE AN ILL WIND BLOWING THROUGH THIS CITY. ONE THAT WE SHOULD NOT—MUST NOT—IGNORE IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE.
SO, OPEN YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS NOW, MY SONS—YOUR REAL TRAINING BEGINS TONIGHT. WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES. AS EVER...

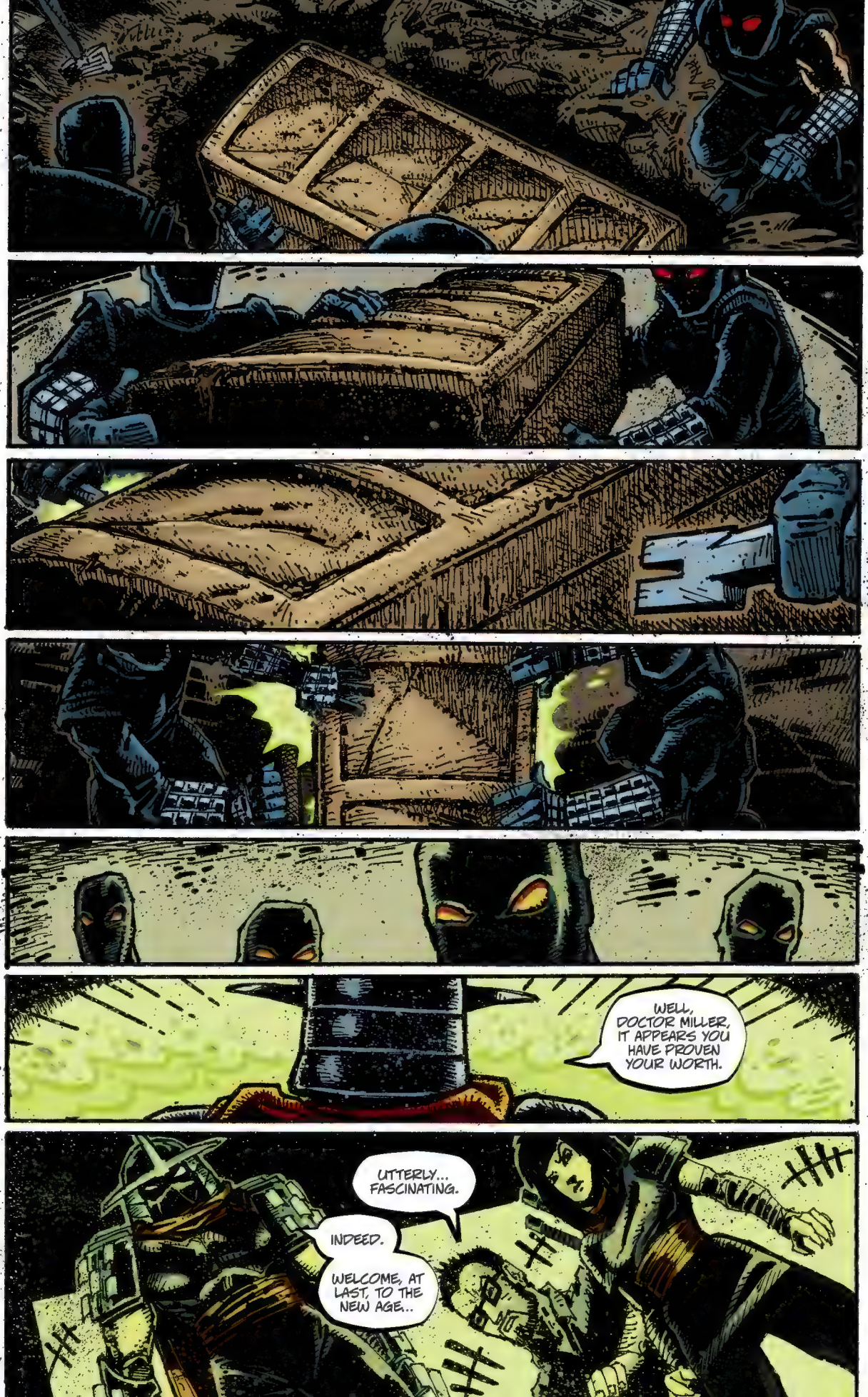

"...WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN WHO... OR WHAT... AWAITS IN THE SHADOWS."
JAPAN.
YOU ARE CERTAIN, DOCTOR MILLER, THAT THIS IS THE PLACE?
YES, IT HAS TO BE...


...I'VE CHECKED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED MY FINDINGS... DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL. IT'S HERE.

FOR YOUR SAKE...

...LET US HOPE YOU ARE CORRECT.

I AM DOUBTFUL, GRANDFATHER. AFTER ALL THIS TIME... THESE MANY YEARS... HOW COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS GO UNDISCOV—
MASTER SHREDDER...
...WE HAVE FOUND SOMETHING!
THEN WHY DO YOU WASTE TIME, FOOL? BRING IT OUT!
YES, MASTER!


WELL, DOCTOR MILLER, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR WORTH.
UTTERLY... FASCINATING.
INDEED.
WELCOME, AT LAST, TO THE NEW AGE...

...KITSUNE.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

art by TYLER WALPOLE

OLD HOB

OLD HOB
YA KNOW WHAT OUR PROBLEM IS?
HUMANS...
SEE, YOU AIN'T NEVER HAD MUCH DEALIN' WITH 'EM, AND THAT'S GOOD.
YOU AIN'T NEVER BEEN NOBODY'S PET...
...AND WITH GOOD REASON.
I MEAN LOOK ATCHA. YOU AIN'T EXACTLY WARM AND CUDDLY.
BUT ME, I HAD PLENTY OF DEALIN' WITH 'EM. TOO MUCH IF YOU ASK ME.
IN FACT...

...THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE ONLY THING I KNEW AND TRUSTED IN THIS WORLD WAS A HUMAN...

...HIS NAME WAS BILLY, OR DANNY... I DUNNO, MY MEMORIES FROM BACK THEN ARE ALL OUTTA WHACK. ANYWAY, WE GOT ALONG LIKE MAYO AND TUNA.

PLENTY OF GRUB, WARM SPOTS FOR NAPS, AND AS MUCH PLAYTIME AS I COULD STAND—WHAT MORE COULD I ASK FOR, RIGHT?

EVERYTHIN' WAS PERFECT, UNTIL...
BILLY! GET YOUR LAZY BUTT IN HERE, NOW!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD?! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS?! THE WHOLE KITCHEN SMELLS LIKE CAT TURDS!
I'M SORRY, MA— I FORGOT AGAIN. IT WON'T...
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
WHERE IS HE?! WHERE IS THAT FLEA BAG?!
PLEASE MA, DON'T—I WON'T FORGET AGAIN! I PROMISE!
I HEARD THIS ALL BEFORE, BILLY, AND YOU STILL CAN'T REMEMBER TO CHANGE THAT STINKIN' LITTER BOX! I'M TIRED OF IT!
STOP, YOU'RE HURTING HIM!
NO! HOB!

PLEASE, MA! HE'S GONNA DIE OUT THERE!
YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT...

NO!

AND THAT WAS THE END OF THAT.

LIVIN' OUTSIDE WAS ROUGH. NO MORE LAYIN' AROUND IN THE SUN OR PLAYIN' WITH BALLS OF STRING.
THE GOOD THING ABOUT LIVIN' IN A CITY LIKE THIS? THERE'S ALWAYS FOOD AROUND IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
THE BAD THING? YOU AIN'T HARDLY EVER THE ONLY ONE LOOKIN' FOR IT.
I LEARNED PRETTY QUICK THAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHIN' ON THE STREETS, YOU GOTTA FIGHT FOR IT.

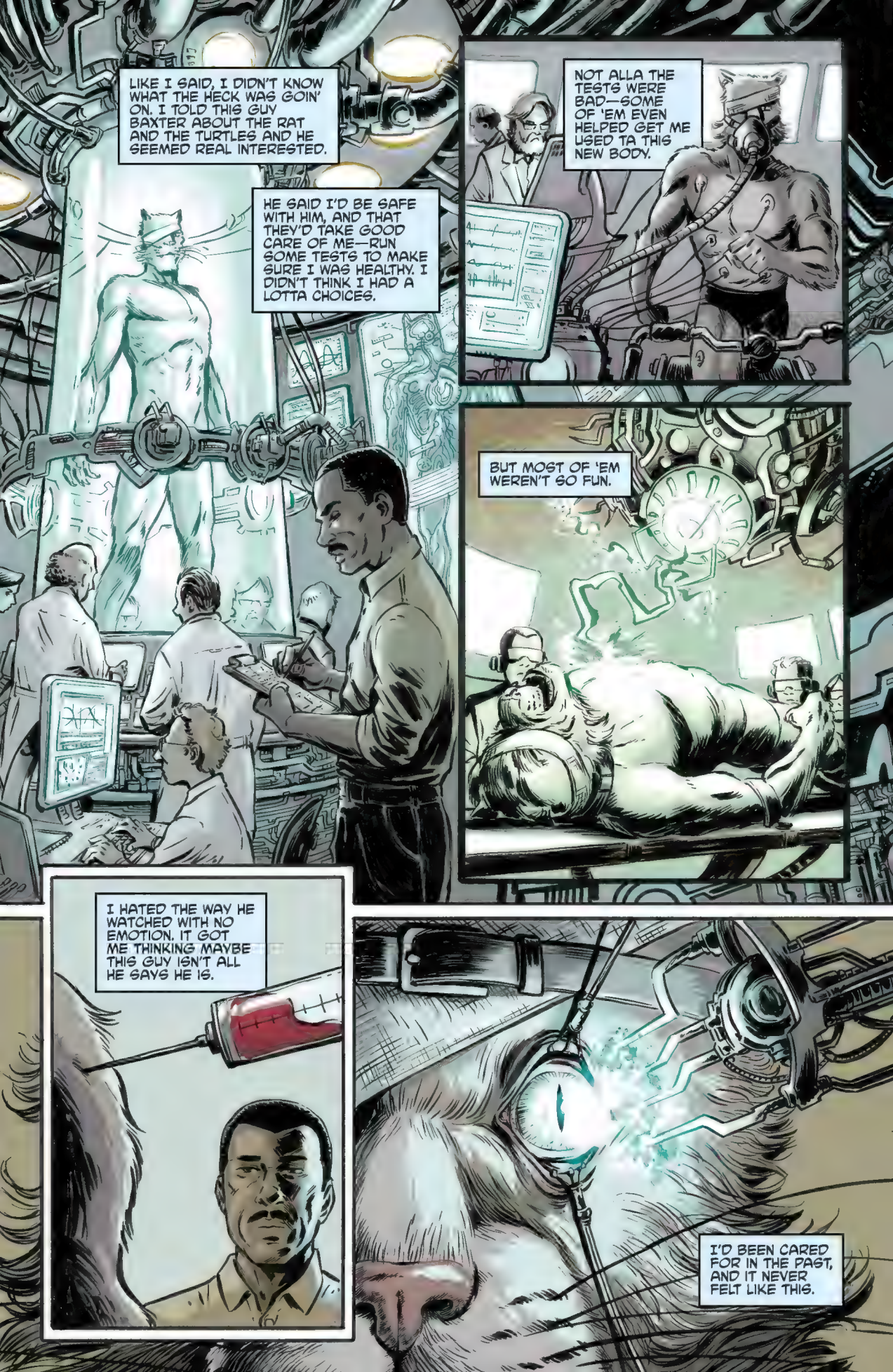
AND WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU WANT, YOU BETTER BE READY TO TAKE IT.
A SNACK'S A SNACK, EVEN IF THEY'RE UGLY GREEN THINGS.
BUT THESE UGLY GREEN THINGS HAD A MANGY LITTLE PROTECTOR.
THAT GREEN CRAP BURNED IN MY MOUTH, THREW ME OFF, LET THAT RAT GET THE BEST OF ME...
...I'D BEEN ROUGHED UP BEFORE—HURT PRETTY BAD A FEW TIMES, EVEN. BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT. SOMETHING WAS WRONG...

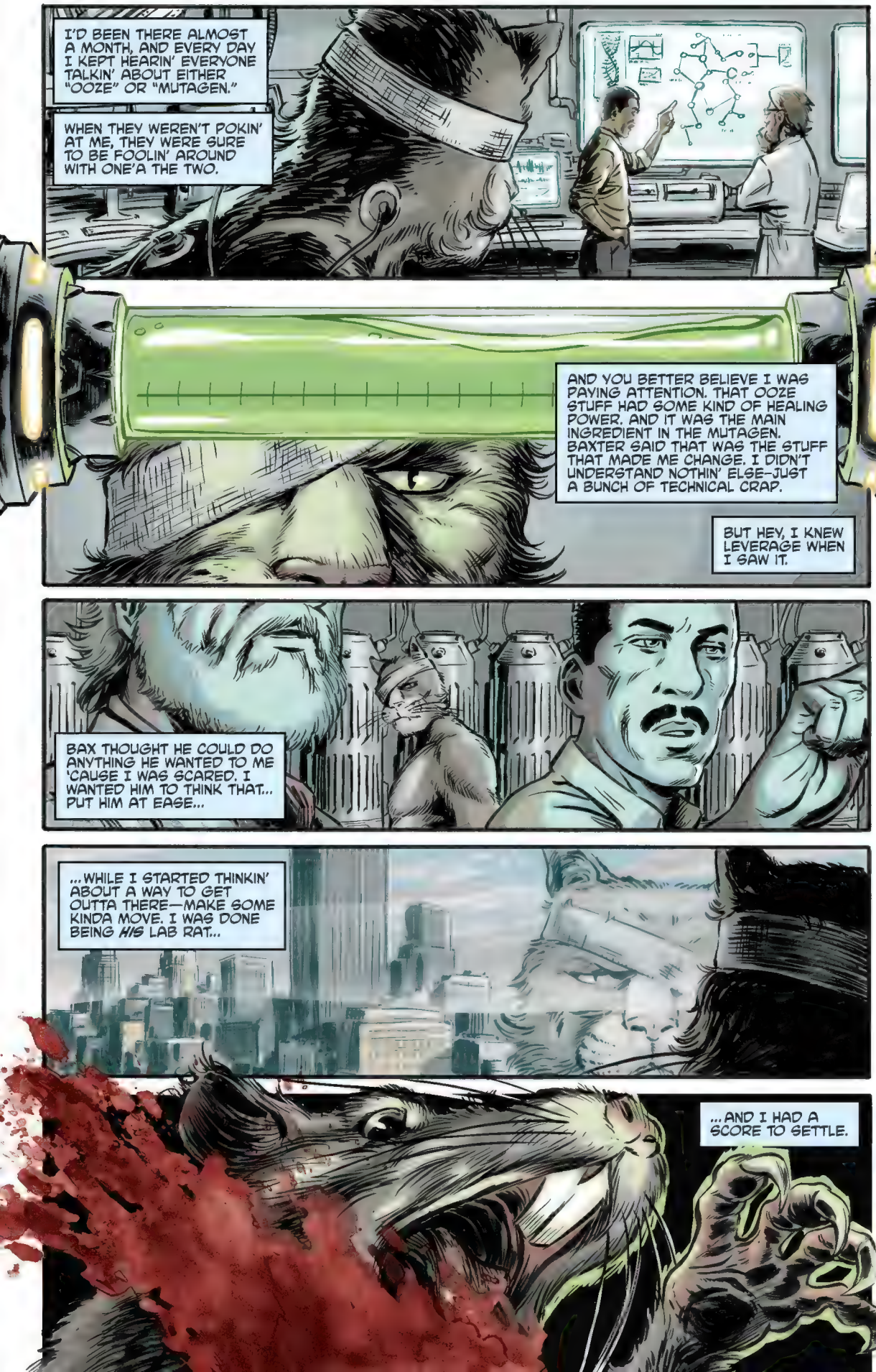
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WAS FOR YOU—I KNOW THEY STUCK IT IN YA WITH NEEDLES, SO MAYBE IT WAS DIFFERENT.
HEY! I AIN'T LOOKIN' FOR NO SHOULDER TO CRY ON HERE!
THIS STORY'S IMPORTANT—YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE FACIN', AND HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED, SEE?
NOW WHERE WAS I?
OH YEAH.
SO I FIGURED I WAS DYIN'—BUT THEN I DIDN'T...

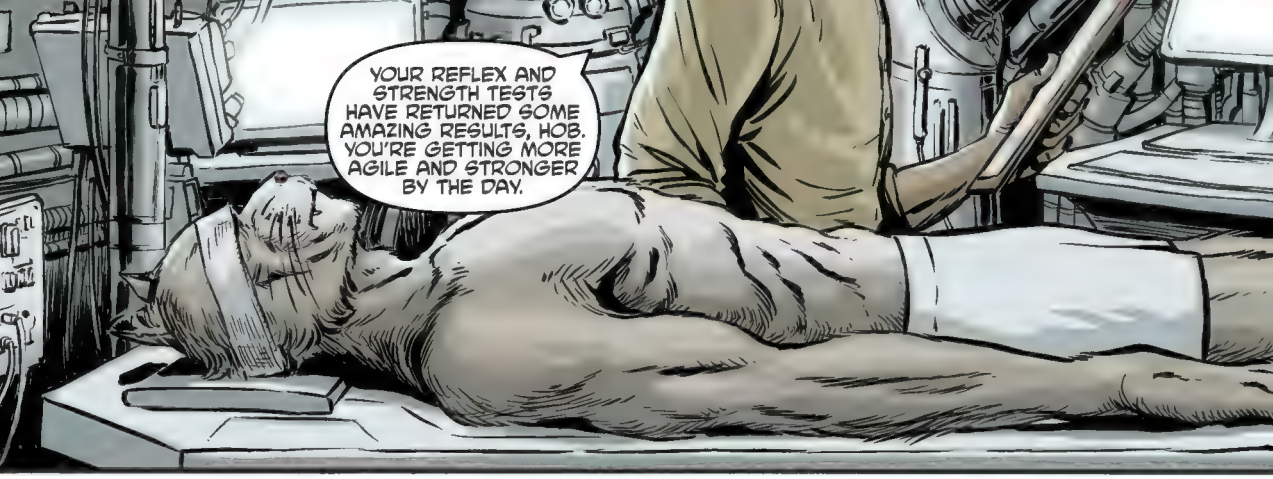
ALL I REMEMBER IS THE PAIN. LIKE GETTIN' RUN THROUGH A SAUSAGE MAKER—GOIN' IN AS ONE THING...
...AND COMIN' OUT SOMETHIN' TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

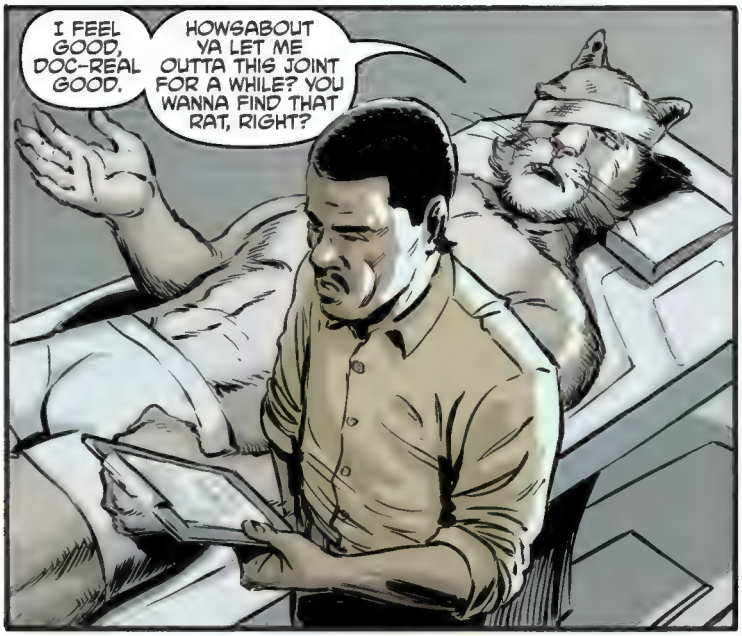
WHEN I WOKE UP I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL WAS GOIN' ON. ONE MINUTE I'M CATCHIN' DINNER, THE NEXT I'M GETTING' MY EYE CLAWED OUT BY A STINKIN' RAT, AND NOW THIS—WHATEVER *THIS* WAS.
I WAS HUGE...
...WHERE I SHOULDA HAD LEGS I HAD ARMS...
...THEN THINGS GOT REALLY WEIRD.
HA! REALLY, MR. ALLEN?
AND PRAY TELL HOW, IN A MASSIVE CITY INFESTED WITH MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF RATS, DO YOU PROPOSE WE FIND THIS "SPLINTER" OF YOURS?

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT—THE NOISES COMIN' FROM THE HUMANS' FLAPPIN' LIPS THAT MEANT NOTHIN' TO ME—I COULD UNDERSTAND IT ALL NOW.
THEY WERE TALKIN' ABOUT A RAT, AND I KNEW IN MY GUTS THAT IT HAD TA BE THE ONE I JUST SCRAPPED WITH.
I CAN HELP WITH THAT...
...I JUST WANNA KNOW ONE THING.
DOES THAT FILTHY RAT HAVE TA BE ALIVE WHEN I BRING HIM TA YA?
MY GOD...

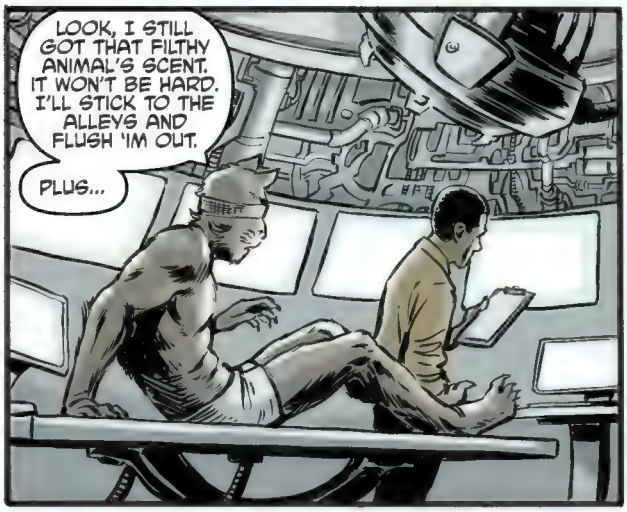

LIKE I SAID, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE HECK WAS GOIN' ON. I TOLD THIS GUY BAXTER ABOUT THE RAT AND THE TURTLES AND HE SEEMED REAL INTERESTED.
HE SAID I'D BE SAFE WITH HIM, AND THAT THEY'D TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME—RUN SOME TESTS TO MAKE SURE I WAS HEALTHY. I DIDN'T THINK I HAD A LOTTA CHOICES.
NOT ALLA THE TESTS WERE BAD—SOME OF 'EM EVEN HELPED GET ME USED TA THIS NEW BODY.
BUT MOST OF 'EM WEREN'T SO FUN.
I HATED THE WAY HE WATCHED WITH NO EMOTION. IT GOT ME THINKING MAYBE THIS GUY ISN'T ALL HE SAYS HE IS.
I'D BEEN CARED FOR IN THE PAST, AND IT NEVER FELT LIKE THIS.


I'D BEEN THERE ALMOST A MONTH, AND EVERY DAY I KEPT HEARIN' EVERYONE TALKIN' ABOUT EITHER "OOZE" OR "MUTAGEN."
WHEN THEY WEREN'T POKIN' AT ME, THEY WERE SURE TO BE FOOLIN' AROUND WITH ONE'A THE TWO.
AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE I WAS PAYING ATTENTION. THAT OOZE STUFF HAD SOME KIND OF HEALING POWER. AND IT WAS THE MAIN INGREDIENT IN THE MUTAGEN. BAXTER SAID THAT WAS THE STUFF THAT MADE ME CHANGE. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND NOTHIN' ELSE—JUST A BUNCH OF TECHNICAL CRAP.
BUT HEY, I KNEW LEVERAGE WHEN I SAW IT.
BAX THOUGHT HE COULD DO ANYTHING HE WANTED TO ME 'CAUSE I WAS SCARED. I WANTED HIM TO THINK THAT... PUT HIM AT EASE...
...WHILE I STARTED THINKIN' ABOUT A WAY TO GET OUTTA THERE—MAKE SOME KINDA MOVE. I WAS DONE BEING *HIS* LAB RAT...
...AND I HAD A SCORE TO SETTLE.

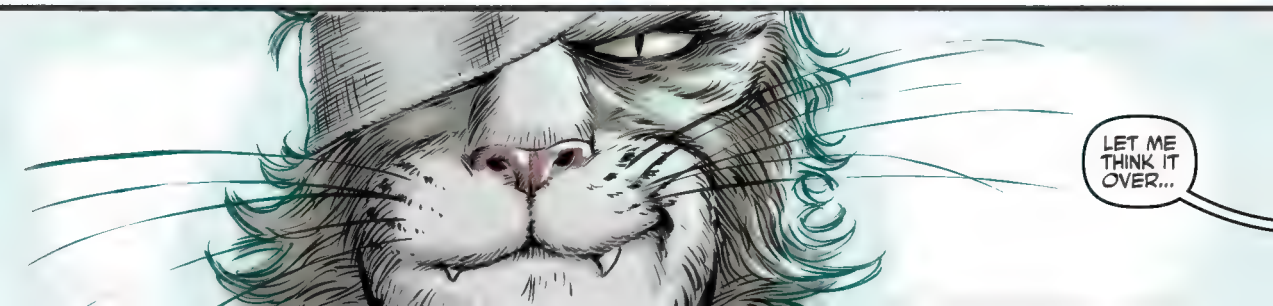

YOUR REFLEX AND STRENGTH TESTS HAVE RETURNED SOME AMAZING RESULTS, HOB. YOU'RE GETTING MORE AGILE AND STRONGER BY THE DAY.


I FEEL GOOD, DOC-REAL GOOD.
HOWSABOUT YA LET ME OUTTA THIS JOINT FOR A WHILE? YOU WANNA FIND THAT RAT, RIGHT?

OUT OF THE QUESTION. WE STILL HAVE MULTITUDES OF TESTS TO RUN, AND YOU OUT IN THE OPEN IS A HUGE LIABILITY. FORGET IT.


LOOK, I STILL GOT THAT FILTHY ANIMAL'S SCENT. IT WON'T BE HARD. I'LL STICK TO THE ALLEYS AND FLUSH 'IM OUT.
PLUS...

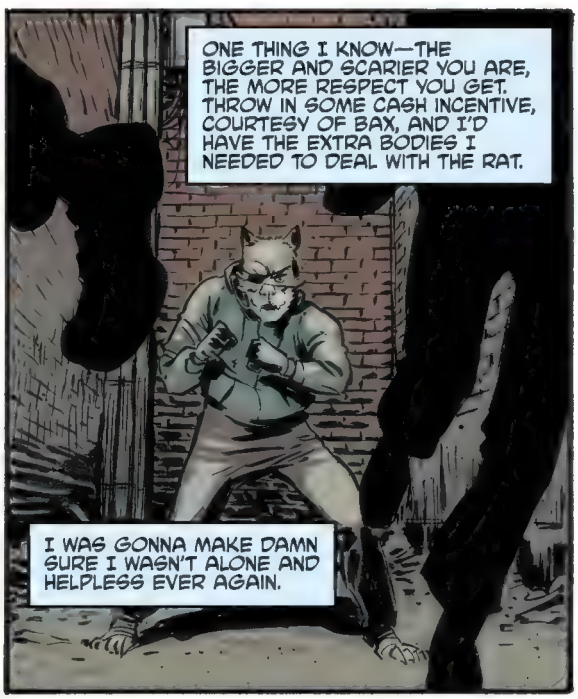
...DON'T YA WANT SOMETHING NEW TO POKE AND PROD AT?
HMMM...


LET ME THINK IT OVER...

HE DIDN'T NEED TO THINK LONG. HE KNEW LETTING ME GO WAS A RISK, BUT I WAS HIS BEST CHANCE AT FINDIN' THE RAT, AND THAT WAS TOO MUCH TEMPTATION FOR OL'BAXIE.
ALL BEEF HOT DOGS
BAX SAID HE'D GIVE ME CASH IF I NEEDED IT. I JUST NEEDED TO KEEP CHECKIN' BACK WITH HIM AT THE LAB.
BUT WHO WAS GONNA TAKE CASH FROM ME, LOOKIN' THE WAY I LOOK? SO I LIVED THE ONLY WAY I KNEW.
THAT GOT ME THINKIN', IF THAT RAT IS ANYTHIN' LIKE ME, HE COULD BE A HANDFUL TO TAKE IN.
I AIN'T SAYIN' I WAS SCARED, BUT I AIN'T STUPID EITHER. IN THIS LIFE, IT'S GOOD TO BE PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING*.
A FEW EXTRA BODIES TO THROW AT THIS PROBLEM COULDN'T HURT. BUT HOW WAS I GONNA CONVINCE A HUMAN TO JOIN UP WITH ME?
YOU'RE DEAD MEAT, PAL...

WHAM
TEACH YOU...
THWOK
JEEEEZUZ, WHAT IS THAT?

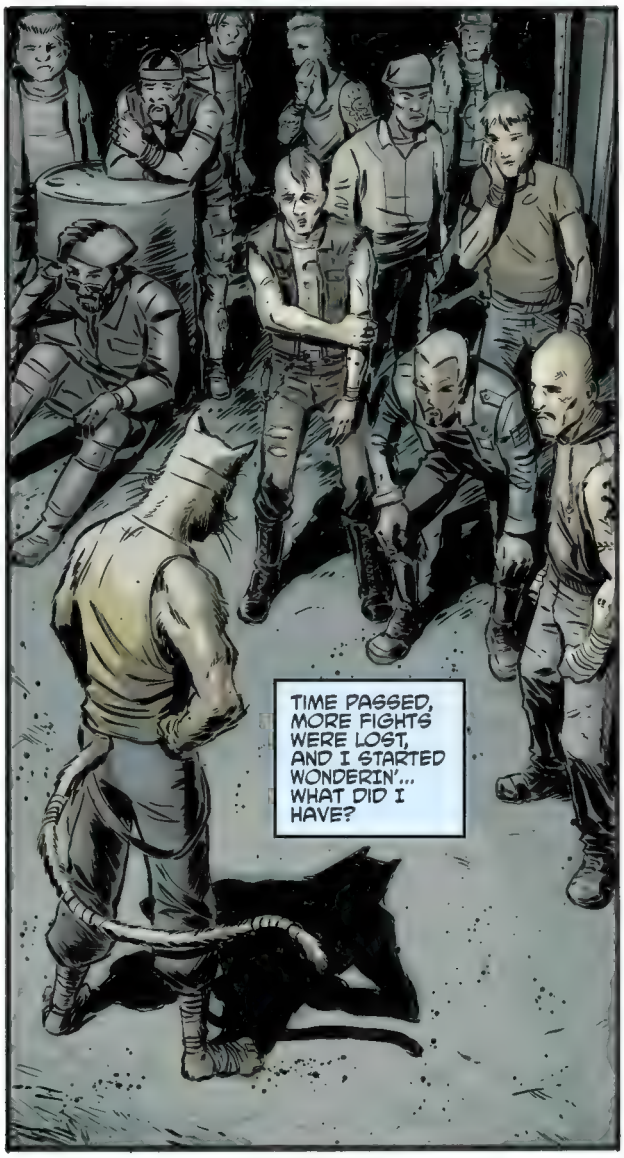
SOME KIND'A... MONSTER!
THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME. SEE, BAX AND HIS NERDS AT THE LAB, THEY AIN'T SCAREDA ME 'CAUSE THEY PRACTICALLY MADE ME. BUT TO THESE OTHER HUMANS, I'M A MONSTER.


ONE THING I KNOW—THE BIGGER AND SCARIER YOU ARE, THE MORE RESPECT YOU GET. THROW IN SOME CASH INCENTIVE, COURTESY OF BAX, AND I'D HAVE THE EXTRA BODIES I NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE RAT.
I WAS GONNA MAKE DAMN SURE I WASN'T ALONE AND HELPLESS EVER AGAIN.

LOTTA TOUGH GUYS ARE LOST WITHOUT A LEADER. GET A SCARY GUY LIKE ME BARKIN' ORDERS AT 'EM AND IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH CONVINCIN'...
...USUALLY. THERE ARE SOME THAT NEED TO BE... PERSUADED.
THE MORE GUYS I TURNED, THE MORE POWERFUL I FELT. IT WAS ADDICTING. I WAS ESTABLISHING TURF, AND FAST. NOT TOO LONG AGO, THERE WAS A POWER VACUUM IN THIS CITY.
HEH. NOT SO MUCH THESE DAYS, THOUGH.
THE PROMISE OF VIOLENCE AND CASH BROUGHT OUT JUST THE TYPES I WAS LOOKIN' FOR.
THE KIND'A GUYS WHO WILL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL 'EM TO DO, NO MATTER HOW STUPID OR DANGEROUS.
AND LEMME TELL YA, THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF 'EM.
WE WERE WORKIN' THE KINKS OUT, GETTIN' READY FOR THE REAL WORK—GETTIN' READY FOR THE RAT.
AND I CAN'T LIE. THOSE FIGHTS WERE FUN AS HELL.

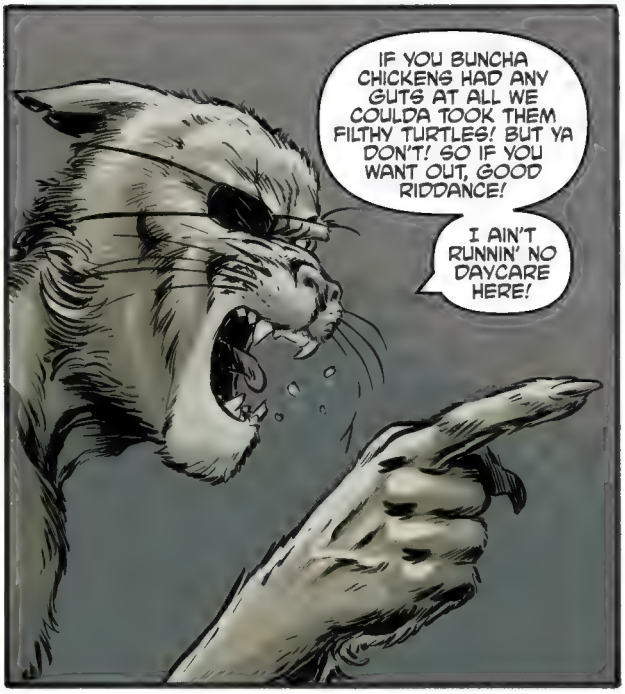
I WENT BACK TO THE LAB TO SHOW BAX I MEANT BUSINESS. I WANTED HIM TO SEE IT—TO SEE ME AND MY BOYS.
HE NEEDED TO KNOW HIS DAYS OF POKIN' ME AND PUTTIN' ME ON THAT DAMN HAMSTER WHEEL WERE OVER!
NO MORE PAIN...
THAT'S RIGHT, BIG GUY, NO MORE PAIN. OUR DAYS OF BEIN' LAB RATS ARE OVER, YOU UNDERSTAND?
SPEAKIN' OF RATS—WE GOT RIGHT TO LOOKIN' FOR THAT STINKIN' RODENT AFTER MY LITTLE VISIT WITH BAX.
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW 'EM ALL TOGETHER...

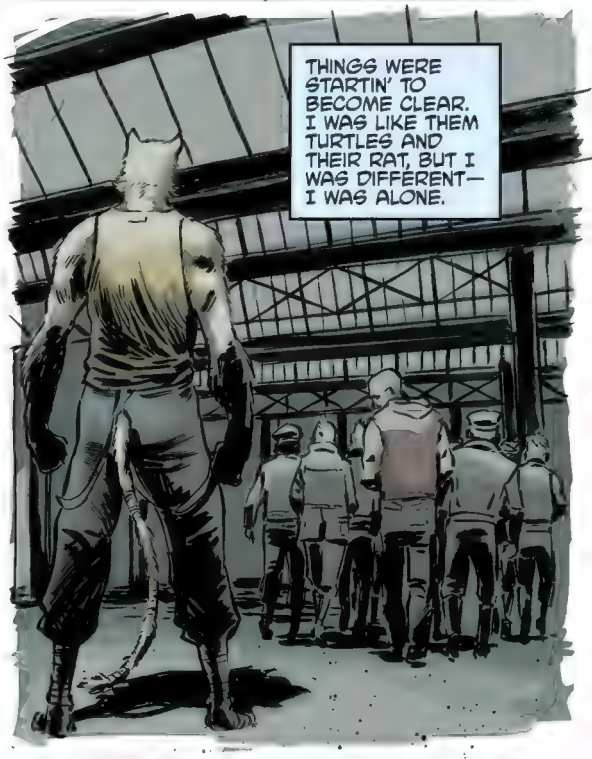
...I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT MOMENT.
I KNEW THEY EXISTED, BUT SEEIN' 'EM LIKE THIS, TOGETHER—IT WAS A LOT TO TAKE IN.
I HAD A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THAT RAT, BUT IT STILL GOT ME THINKIN' ABOUT THINGS.
THEY WERE A TEAM... A FAMILY.
AND THAT TICKED ME OFF EVEN MORE.


TIME PASSED, MORE FIGHTS WERE LOST, AND I STARTED WONDERIN'... WHAT DID I HAVE?

WE AIN'T DOIN' THIS NO MORE, HOB—YOU'RE NOT PAYING US ENOUGH FOR THIS CRAP! LOOK AT US! WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM FREAKS...

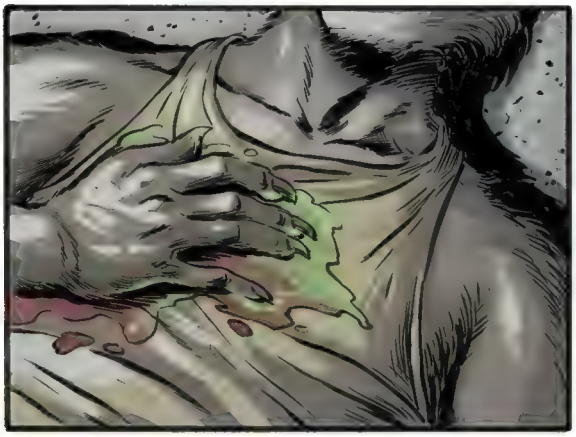
FREAKS?! THAT WHAT YOU MUTTS CALL ME WHEN I AIN'T AROUND?

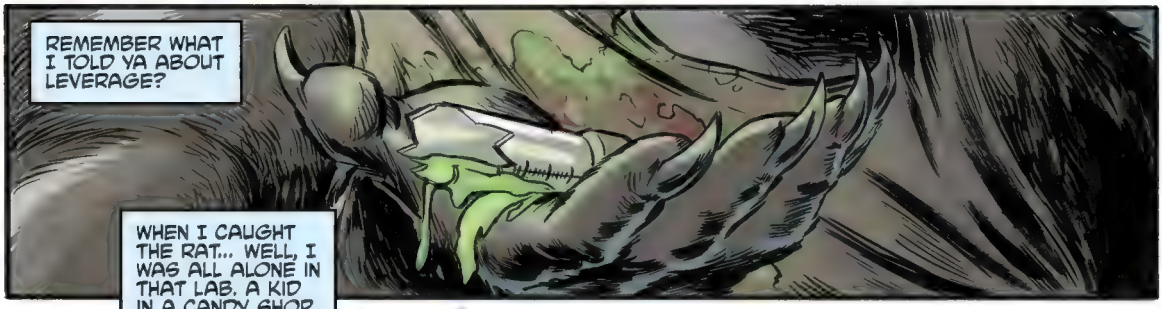

IF YOU BUNCHA CHICKENS HAD ANY GUTS AT ALL WE COULDA TOOK THEM FILTHY TURTLES! BUT YA DON'T! SO IF YOU WANT OUT, GOOD RIDDANCE!
I AIN'T RUNNIN' NO DAYCARE HERE!

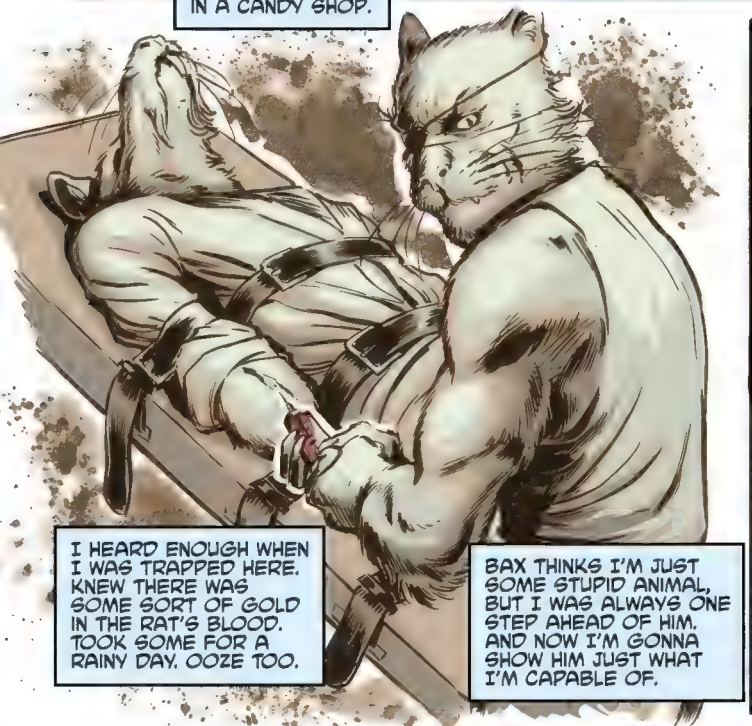

THINGS WERE STARTIN' TO BECOME CLEAR. I WAS LIKE THEM TURTLES AND THEIR RAT, BUT I WAS DIFFERENT— I WAS ALONE.

WHAT'S THAT OLD SAYIN' ABOUT FOOL ME ONCE OR WHATEVER?
YEAH, WELL— SHAME ON ME.
BAX MADE A SHOW OF ME TO HIS PAL. HE WAS COVERIN' HIS BASES ALL THE WAY HOME AND I DIDN'T FIT INTO HIS PLANS NO MORE.
I GOTTA HAND IT TO BAX, THOUGH—I DIDN'T THINK HE HAD IT IN 'IM TO DO THE DIRTY WORK.
I GUESS HE UNDERESTIMATED ME TOO...

...HE THOUGHT HE HAD ME, BUT NOBODY ONE-UPS OLD HOB.




REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YA ABOUT LEVERAGE?
WHEN I CAUGHT THE RAT... WELL, I WAS ALL ALONE IN THAT LAB. A KID IN A CANDY SHOP.


I HEARD ENOUGH WHEN I WAS TRAPPED HERE. KNEW THERE WAS SOME SORT OF GOLD IN THE RAT'S BLOOD. TOOK SOME FOR A RAINY DAY. OOZE TOO.
BAX THINKS I'M JUST SOME STUPID ANIMAL, BUT I WAS ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF HIM. AND NOW I'M GONNA SHOW HIM JUST WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.

I'M DONE WITH THESE HUMANS— THESE WEAK, PATHETIC MEAT SACKS. YOU CAN'T TRUST 'EM, YOU CAN'T RELY ON 'EM.
I GOT PLANS FOR US, SEE? BIG PLANS...

...AND THIS WHOLE CITY IS GONNA SHAKE WITH FEAR WHEN THEY SEE WHAT'S COMING NEXT.
YOU GOT TWO MINUTES BEFORE MY BETTER JUDGMENT KICKS IN, HOB.
HMPH. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SHOW.
NO, NOT NOW...
...WE GOT BUSINESS WITH THESE BOYS.

art by DAVE WACHTER

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

ISSUE #22

NEW YORK CITY.
<OUR RIVALS, THE SAVATE, HAVE RECENTLY FOUND A NEW LEADER...> *
* SEE TMNT ANNUAL #1 – B.C.
<"...A WARRIOR NAMED VICTOR, WHO OPPOSES MY AUTHORITY.>
<"RECENT SAVATE ADVANCEMENTS HAVE... EMBOLDENED OTHER UNDERWORLD ELEMENTS TO FOLLOW SUIT.">

<"THESE NEW ALLIES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RAIDED OUR MATERIEL SHIPMENTS.>
<"WE CONTINUE TO MEET VICTOR'S CHALLENGES AT EVERY TURN...>
<"...BUT HE REMAINS STUBBORN.">

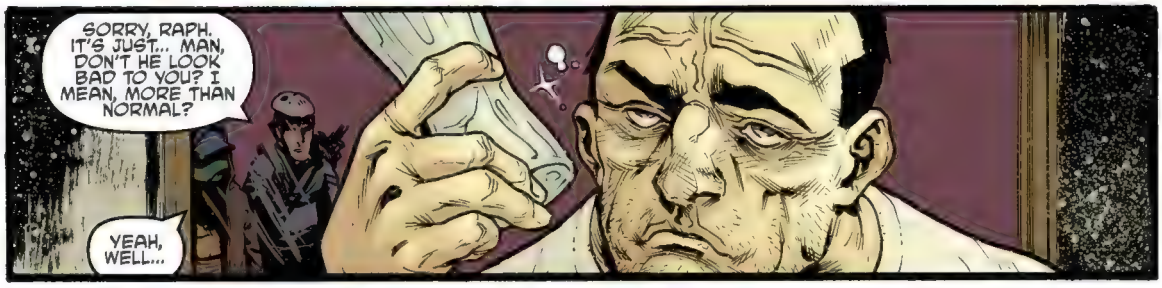
<MY PATIENCE FOR SUCH MATTERS IS AT AN END.>
<WHAT, THEN, DO YOU PROPOSE, OROKU SAKI?>
<WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE, KITSUNE...>

CITY FALL
PART ONE
<...EMBRACE OUR DESTINY.>

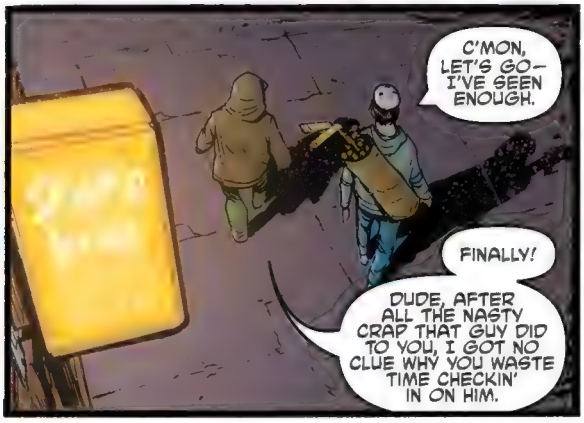
CAN WE GO OR WHAT, CASEY?

I DON'T KNOW 'BOUT YOU, MAN, BUT I'M GETTIN' BORED—

"—OF STARIN' AT YOUR OLD MAN DRINKIN' THE PLACE DRY."


SORRY, RAPH. IT'S JUST... MAN, DON'T HE LOOK BAD TO YOU? I MEAN, MORE THAN NORMAL?
YEAH, WELL...

...YOU'D THINK A BEATDOWN FROM MASTER SPLINTER WOULDA SOBERED HIS BUTT UP. GUESS SOME CHUMPS NEVER LEARN, HUH?
YEAH... MAYBE.

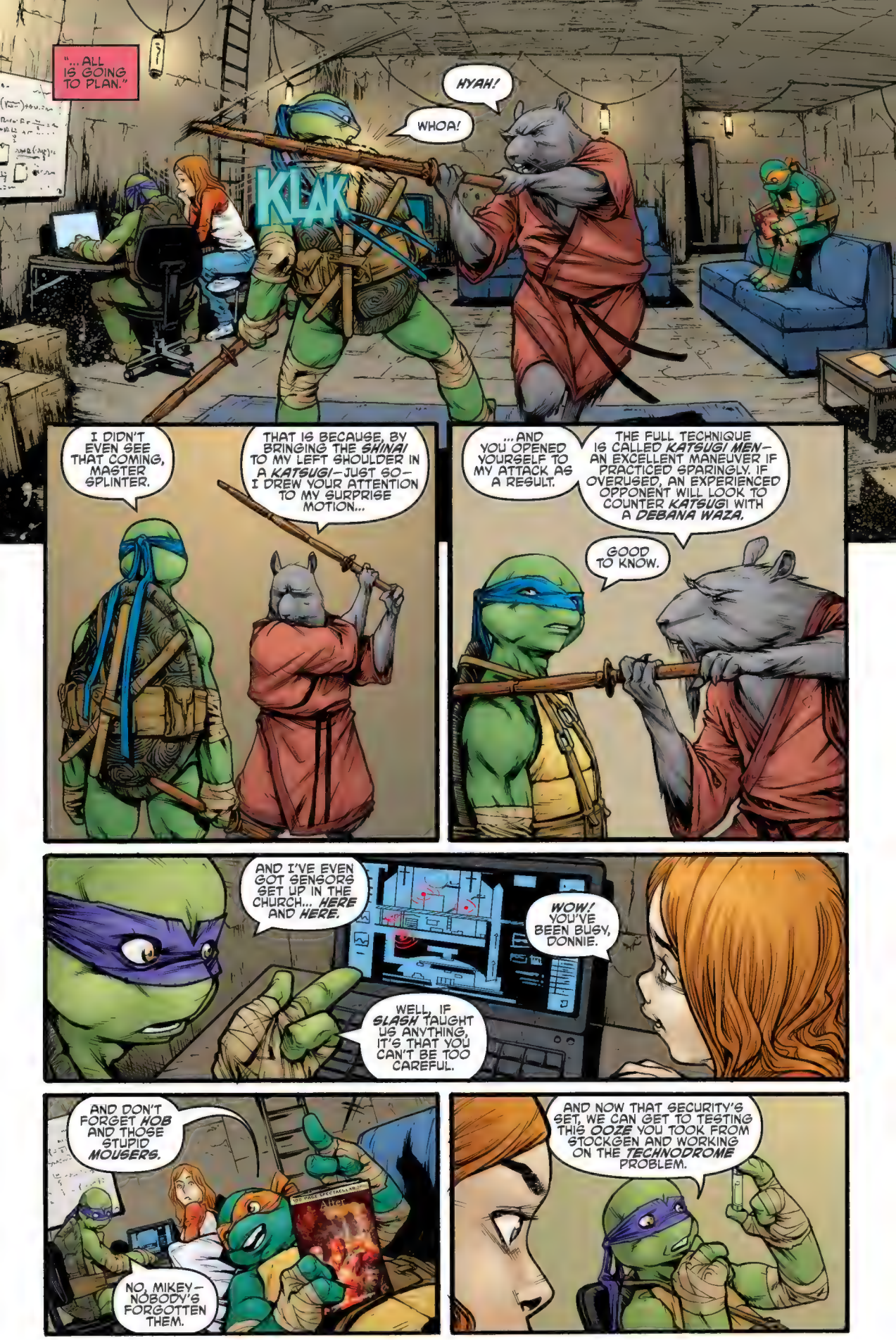

C'MON, LET'S GO— I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
FINALLY!
DUDE, AFTER ALL THE NASTY CRAP THAT GUY DID TO YOU, I GOT NO CLUE WHY YOU WASTE TIME CHECKIN' IN ON HIM.

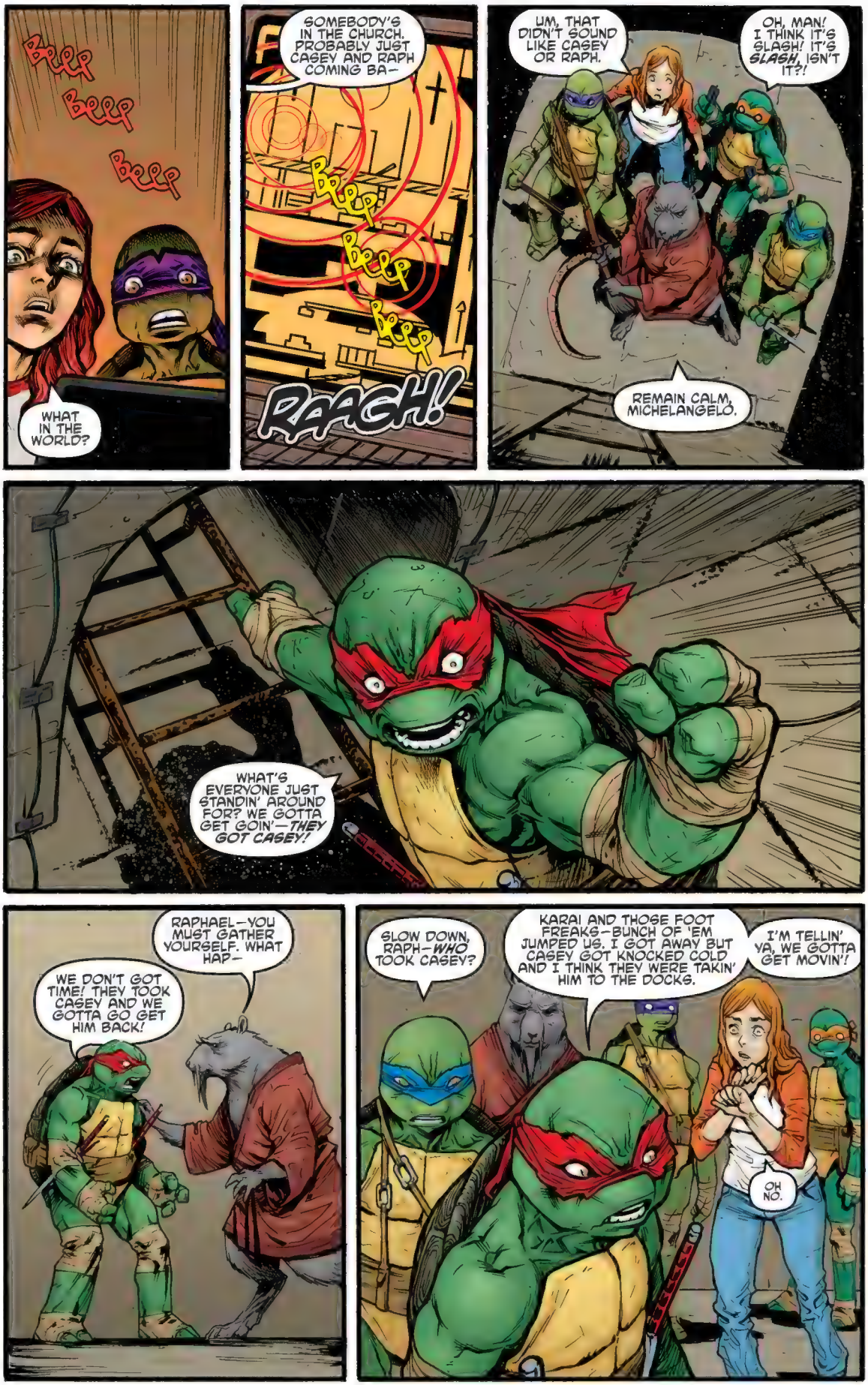
I KNOW IT DON'T MAKE SENSE, BUT I MADE A PROMISE TO MY MOM, SO I'M DOIN' IT FOR HER.
MOSTLY.
WELL, I CAME OUT TO KICK SOME BAD-GUY BUTT, NOT WATCH YOU KICK YOUR OWN, OKAY? SO WHY DON'T—
FOOT! ATTACK!
DAMN! WHERE THE HELL'D THESE GUYS COME FROM?!
YOU'RE ASKIN' ME?!
DON'T YOU GOT NINJA SUPER-SENSE OR SOMETHIN'?
YEAH, I LEARNED THAT RIGHT AFTER I FIGURED OUT HOW TO SHOOT LASERS FROM MY EYES. SHEESH!
THERE'S A TON OF THESE G—
KRAK
HRK!
CASEY!

STINKIN'... DIRTY... FOOT SCUM...
I'M GONNA KICK ALL YOUR—
BRING DOWN THE MUTANT!
BIND HIS WRISTS!
GRAAGH!
AND SILENCE HIM!
MMMMMFF...
QUICKLY!
THUD
THUD

MRRMFF! ERFMF!
SO, MUTANT...
...WE MEET AGAIN.
THE DISCOMFORT YOU ARE EXPERIENCING IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
IT WILL END SOON... WHEN YOU PERISH.
DRIVER! TAKE US TO THE DOCKS!

SSHKK
SPLASH
THE MUTANT IS GONE.
YES...
WHAM


"... ALL IS GOING TO PLAN."
HYAH!
WHOA!
KLAK
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE THAT COMING, MASTER SPLINTER.
THAT IS BECAUSE, BY BRINGING THE SHINAI TO MY LEFT SHOULDER IN A KATSUGI—JUST SO—I DREW YOUR ATTENTION TO MY SURPRISE MOTION...
... AND YOU OPENED YOURSELF TO MY ATTACK AS A RESULT.
THE FULL TECHNIQUE IS CALLED KATSUGI MEN—AN EXCELLENT MANEUVER IF PRACTICED SPARINGLY. IF OVERUSED, AN EXPERIENCED OPPONENT WILL LOOK TO COUNTER KATSUGI WITH A DEBANA WAZA.
GOOD TO KNOW.
AND I'VE EVEN GOT SENSORS SET UP IN THE CHURCH... HERE AND HERE.
WOW! YOU'VE BEEN BUSY, DONNIE.
WELL, IF SLASH TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.
AND DON'T FORGET HOB AND THOSE STUPID MOUSERS.
100 PAGE SPECTACULAR
Attack
NO, MIKEY—NOBODY'S FORGOTTEN THEM.
AND NOW THAT SECURITY'S SET, WE CAN GET TO TESTING THIS OOZE YOU TOOK FROM STOCKGEN AND WORKING ON THE TECHNODROME PROBLEM.

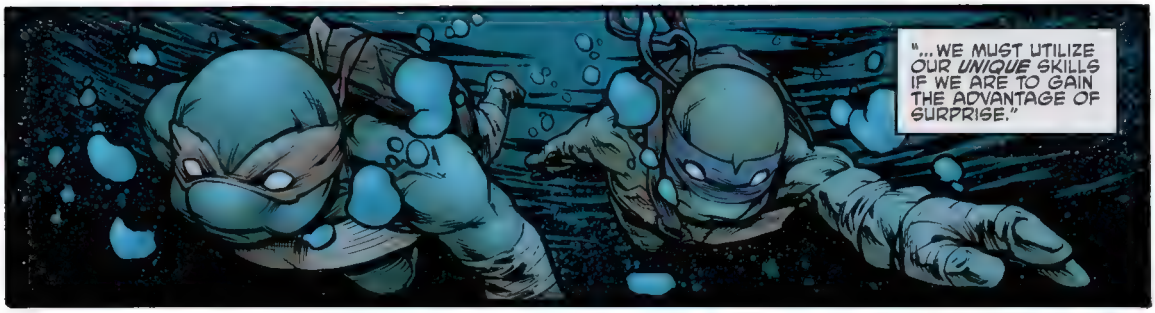

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
SOMEBODY'S IN THE CHURCH. PROBABLY JUST CASEY AND RAPH COMING BA—
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
RAAGH!
UM, THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE CASEY OR RAPH.
OH, MAN! I THINK IT'S SLASH! IT'S SLASH, ISN'T IT?!
REMAIN CALM, MICHELANGELO.
WHAT'S EVERYONE JUST STANDIN' AROUND FOR? WE GOTTA GET GOIN'—THEY GOT CASEY!
RAPHAEL—YOU MUST GATHER YOURSELF. WHAT HAP—
WE DON'T GOT TIME! THEY TOOK CASEY AND WE GOTTA GO GET HIM BACK!
SLOW DOWN, RAPH—WHO TOOK CASEY?
KARAI AND THOSE FOOT FREAKS—BUNCH OF 'EM JUMPED US. I GOT AWAY BUT CASEY GOT KNOCKED COLD AND I THINK THEY WERE TAKIN' HIM TO THE DOCKS.
I'M TELLIN' YA, WE GOTTA GET MOVIN'!
OH NO.

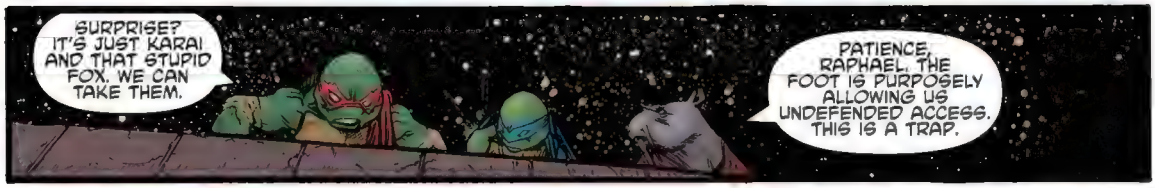
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA... HOLD ON. IF THEY AMBUSHED YOU, THEN IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A TRAP. AND IF THEY KNOW YOU ESCAPED, THEN THEY'VE GOT TO BE EXPECTING A RESCUE.
WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE GOING FROM ONE TRAP TO ANOTHER IS STRATEGICALLY STUPID, AND--
DAMMIT, LEO, WE GOT NO TIME FOR NINJA TACTICAL CRAP—THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT... OUR *FAMILY*, MAN. HE NEEDS US *NOW!*
YEAH, AND RUSHING INTO TROUBLE'S REALLY WORKED OUT FOR YOU TWO IN THE PAST, RIGHT?
YOU STINKIN'--
STOP!
STAND APART, MY SONS.
WE ACHIEVE NOTHING IF WE QUARREL AMONGST OURSELVES.
YOU ARE BOTH CORRECT. CASEY JONES IS PART OF OUR FAMILY AND WE MUST SAVE HIM, BUT IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO DO SO IN RECKLESS FASHION.
WE MUST BE QUICK... BUT WE MUST ALSO BE CAUTIOUS.
REST ASSURED, RAPHAEL, WE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER...

"...TO RESCUE YOUR FRIEND."
IS ALL IN ORDER?
YES...
...THE OTHER FOOT HAVE SET UP A PERIMETER. THEY'LL SCARE AWAY ANY IDIOTS THAT GET TOO CLOSE TO THE DOCKS. NOBODY WILL INTERFERE.
BUT, KARAI, I'M CURIOUS...
...WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE THEY'LL COME FOR THEIR FRIEND?
I KNOW THEY WILL COME, ALOPEX, BECAUSE THEY ARE NINJA. A CLAN.
FOOLISHLY LOYAL UNTO DEATH.

OKAY, GUYS, WE'RE HERE.
MISS O'NEIL, UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND EXACTLY *WHAT* IT IS WE ARE FACING, I MUST ASK THAT YOU STAY BEHIND.
NO PROBLEM, MASTER SPLINTER.
AND LISTEN, FOOT OR NO FOOT, THIS AIN'T THE BEST 'HOOD IN TOWN. LOCK THIS THING UP *TIGHT* AND KEEP THE MOTOR RUNNIN' JUST IN CASE WE GOTTA *BOOGIE* THE HELL OUTTA HERE, OKAY?
OKAY, RAPH. JUST STAY SAFE, ALL RIGHT?
AND, *PLEASE*... GET CASEY BACK.
DON'T WORRY...
...I *WILL*.
'NIGHT, DAD. SEE YOU LA—
WHAT THE HELL?

RAPH, YOU'RE RIGHT—THERE'S CASEY.
WHERE'S DONNIE AND MIKE?
I HAVE SENT THEM AHEAD...


"...WE MUST UTILIZE OUR *UNIQUE* SKILLS IF WE ARE TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE."


SURPRISE? IT'S JUST KARAI AND THAT STUPID FOX. WE CAN TAKE THEM.
PATIENCE, RAPHAEL. THE FOOT IS PURPOSELY ALLOWING US UNDEFENDED ACCESS. THIS IS A TRAP.

BUT... IT LOOKS LIKE CASEY'S HURT. WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE DOIN'...

...NOTHIN'.
DAMN.
YES, LEONARDO...

"...DAMN, INDEED."

KNOCK KNOCK
HOLY CRAP!
OH, MY GOD... YOU ABOUT GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK, UM...
ANGEL.
YOU'RE THAT COLLEGE CHICK WHO HANGS WITH CASEY, AIN'T YOU? WHAT THE HELL YOU DOIN' HERE?
THE... THE FOOT KIDNAPPED CASEY, SO THE GUYS—SPLINTER AND THE TURTLES—AND I CAME DOWN HERE TO GET HIM BACK.
KIDNAPPED? WHEN?
EARLIER TONIGHT. HE MIGHT BE HURT...
...OR WORSE.
DAMN.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
APRIL.
WHERE WERE THE OTHERS GOIN', APRIL?
THE DOCKS. RAPH HEARD KARAI SAY THAT'S WHERE THEY WERE TAKING CASEY.
OKAY. I GOTTA GO HELP 'EM. CASEY'S THE ONLY REASON I AIN'T IN JAIL OR DEAD RIGHT NOW.
BY YOURSELF?
NO TIME TO GET THE OTHER DRAGONS. YOU HANG TIGHT.
YEAH, YEAH... AND LOCK MY DOORS. I KNOW, I KNOW...

THEY ARE HERE, GRANDFATHER.
YES, KARAI.
I KNOW YOU ARE OUT THERE, HAMATO YOSHI! WHY DO YOU DELAY COMING TO THE AID OF YOUR FALLEN COMRADE?!
WHY DO YOU HIDE?!
MASTER, DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AFTER THEM? CHASE THEM OUT?
NO, ALOPEX, THERE IS NO NEED TO PURSUE THEM.
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO DRAW VERMIN TO A TRAP.
MMFM... FMMF... MMF...?
YOSHI, YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION IS REQUIRED! AS YOU CAN SEE...
MRFMF... URFF... MMFF!

SCHLIP
...YOUR COMRADE IS NOW SEVERELY WOUNDED!

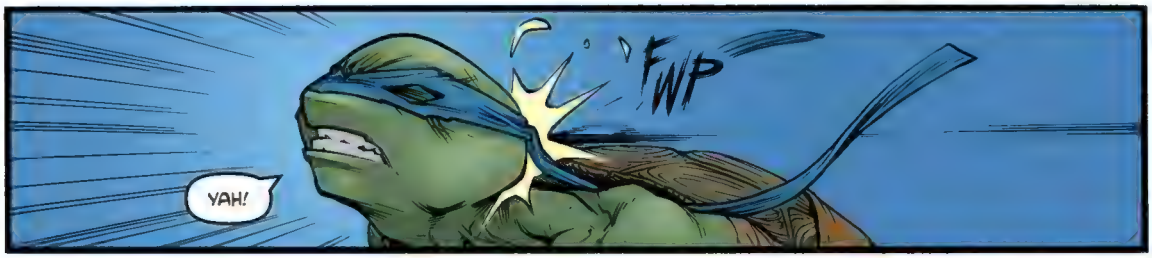
MY SON, WAIT!
NO!
FOOT! ATTACK!
GRRAAGH!
WITH ME, ALOPEX. AS WE PLANNED—AVOID THE BATTLE AND DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE TARGET.
THAT BASTARD *STABBED* HIM!
RAPHAEL, CALM YOURSELF! FOCUS!
LISTEN TO FATHER, RAPH!
I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

ALL HELL'S BREAKING LOOSE!
C'MON, MIKEY—WE GOTTA GET CASEY!
COMIN'!
AH, AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT. CLEVER STRATEGY... ALBEIT A PREDICTABLE ONE.
WE'RE REPTILES, YOU DOOFUS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE MEANT, MIKEY.
OH, NO...
"...CASEY."
LEONARDO, ASSIST YOUR OTHER BROTHERS—I WILL STAY WITH RAPHAEL!
YES, SENSEI!
RAPHAEL!
I'M GONNA RIP YOU APART!

OUR TARGET IS IN THE OPEN, ALOPEX—YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YES. KEEP THE PREY SEPARATED FROM THE HERD.
GRRARGH!
WHAT THE—UFF!
GUYS—CASEY'S HURT BAD! WE GOTTA GET HIM OUTTA HERE!
I—GRF!—NEED HELP!
DON! MIKE! HELP ANGEL!
C'MON, MIKEY! FORGET THIS GUY!
SEE YOU 'ROUND, PINHEAD!
YES...
...YOU WILL.

ANGEL! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
LATER! LET'S GO!
LEO, COME ON!
WORKING ON IT!
WHAK
FATHER! WE HAVE CASEY!
STOP, RAPHAËL! QUELL YOUR ANGER!
YOUR FRIEND NEEDS YOU NOW!
GRAAH!

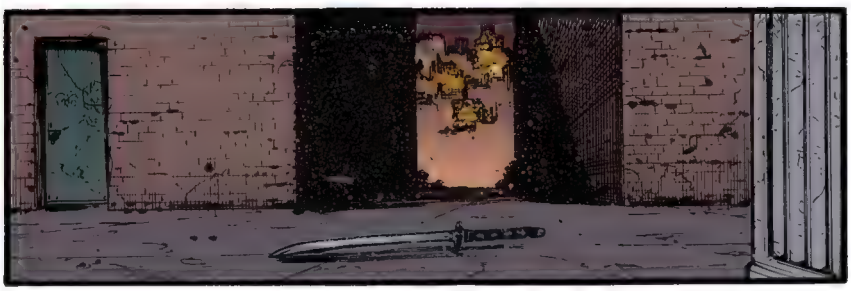
I'M OUTTA HERE!


FWP
YAH!

WHUMP

IT IS DONE, MASTER.
YES, KARAI. I SEE.

EXCELLENT.



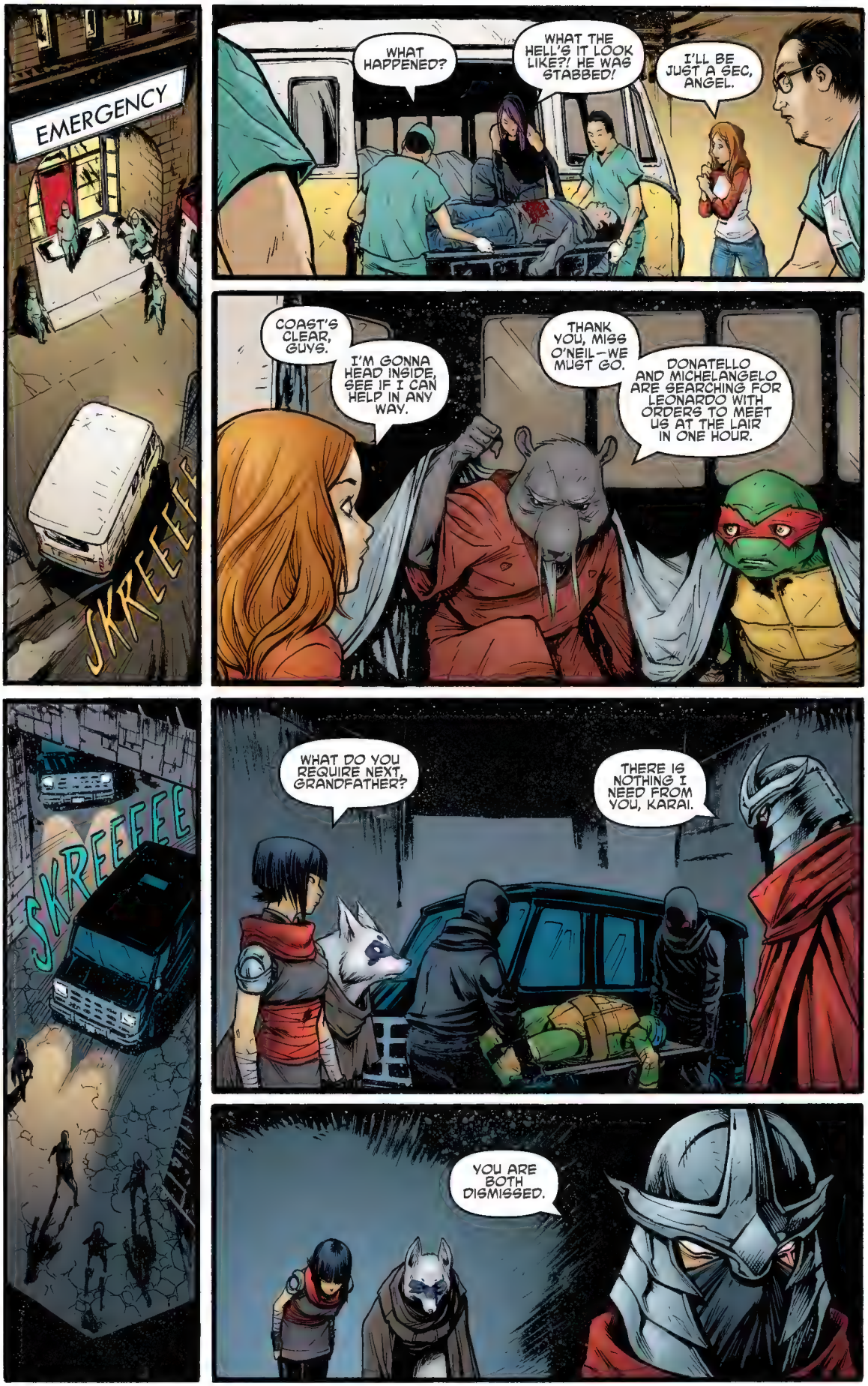
OH, MAN... CASEY.
HIS WOUND IS DEEP. WE MUST GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY.
DUDES, THE FOOT JUST TOTALLY TOOK OFF!
APRIL!
I HEARD ALL THE NOISE AND COULDN'T SIT AROUND WAITING ANYMORE, SO I—
—OH, MY GOD.
C'MON, WE GOTTA HURRY!
FATHER, LEO'S NOT HERE!
LEONARDO? BUT—
OH, MAN...
DAMMIT, WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
SHE'S RIGHT...
...CASEY'S DYING!

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

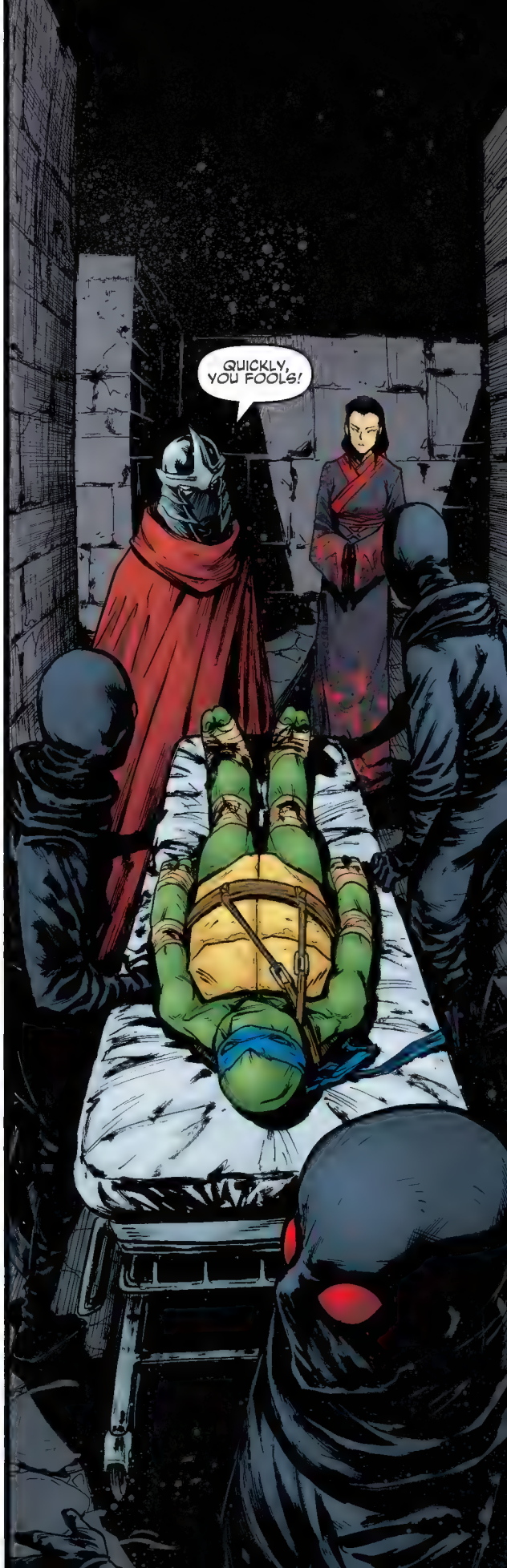
art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

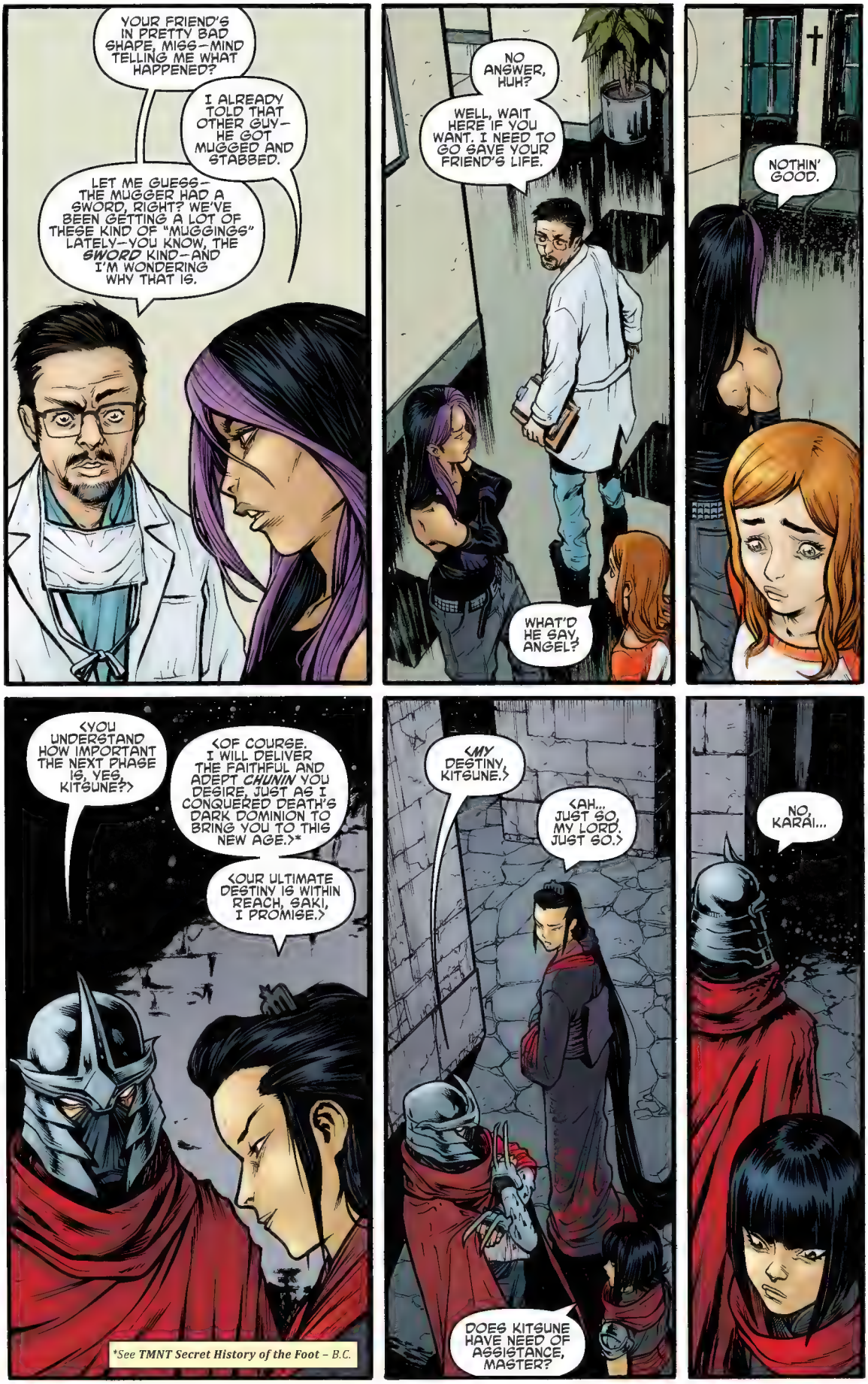
ISSUE #23

WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
...I CALLED AHEAD, SO THEY SHOULD BE READY FOR US.
LET US HOPE THEY ARE, MISS O'NEIL. HE HAS LOST MUCH BLOOD. I FEAR WITHOUT PROPER MEDICAL CARE, HE HAS LITTLE TIME.
OH, GOD... CASEY...
WE ARE NEARLY THERE, MASTER...
...KITSUNE AND HER PRIESTS ARE STANDING BY.
EXCELLENT.


EMERGENCY
SKREEEE
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT THE HELL'S IT LOOK LIKE?! HE WAS STABBED!
I'LL BE JUST A SEC, ANGEL.
COAST'S CLEAR, GUYS.
I'M GONNA HEAD INSIDE, SEE IF I CAN HELP IN ANY WAY.
THANK YOU, MISS O'NEIL—WE MUST GO.
DONATELLO AND MICHELANGELO ARE SEARCHING FOR LEONARDO WITH ORDERS TO MEET US AT THE LAIR IN ONE HOUR.
SKREEEEE
WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE NEXT, GRANDFATHER?
THERE IS NOTHING I NEED FROM YOU, KARAI.
YOU ARE BOTH DISMISSED.

TAKE HIM TO O.R.-3 AND GET HIM PREPPED ASAP! I'LL BE THERE IN FIVE MINUTES!


QUICKLY, YOU FOOLS!


YOUR FRIEND'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, MISS—MIND TELLING ME WHAT HAPPENED?
I ALREADY TOLD THAT OTHER GUY—HE GOT MUGGED AND STABBED.
LET ME GUESS—THE MUGGER HAD A SWORD, RIGHT? WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF THESE KIND OF "MUGGINGS" LATELY—YOU KNOW, THE *SWORD* KIND—AND I'M WONDERING WHY THAT IS.
NO ANSWER, HUH?
WELL, WAIT HERE IF YOU WANT. I NEED TO GO SAVE YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE.
WHAT'D HE SAY, ANGEL?
NOTHIN' GOOD.
<YOU UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THE NEXT PHASE IS, YES, KITSUNE?>
<OF COURSE. I WILL DELIVER THE FAITHFUL AND ADEPT *CHUNIN* YOU DESIRE, JUST AS I CONQUERED DEATH'S DARK DOMINION TO BRING YOU TO THIS NEW AGE.>*
<OUR ULTIMATE DESTINY IS WITHIN REACH, SAKI, I PROMISE.>
*See TMNT Secret History of the Foot – B.C.
<MY DESTINY, KITSUNE.>
<AH... JUST SO, MY LORD. JUST SO.>
DOES KITSUNE HAVE NEED OF ASSISTANCE, MASTER?
NO, KARAI...

"...WHAT COMES NEXT REQUIRES A SINGULAR MASTERY POSSESSED ONLY BY AN EXTRAORDINARY FEW."

FATHER! RAPH! IS CASEY...?
HE IS AT THE HOSPITAL, MICHELANGELO. THE DOCTORS HAVE HIM NOW.
AND WHAT OF LEONARDO?
UM... WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE AROUND THE DOCKS, SENSEI, HIGH AND LOW...
...BUT THIS IS THE ONLY CLUE WE COULD FIND.
HIS... SWORD? THEN THE FOOT—
UH, GUYS... THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE ONLY CLUE...
...CHECK IT OUT!
EAST RIVER
MIDNITE CAN HELP U! HOB*
GREAT. NOW WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HOB KNOWING WHERE WE LIVE.
BUT... WHAT IF HE CAN HELP US LIKE IT SAYS?
DON'T BE STUPID, MIKE. THIS IS HOB, REMEMBER? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S TALKIN' 'BOUT LEO.
NO... WE DO NOT. YET, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THE TIMING OF THIS NOTE IS MERE COINCIDENCE.
IF THERE IS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY OLD HOB HAS INFORMATION THAT HELPS US FIND LEONARDO, THEN WE MUST HEED HIS INVITATION.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE CAN ONLY HOPE...

"...THAT YOUR BROTHER REMAINS UNHARMED, WHEREVER HE MAY BE."
SO, IT IS ONLY YOU AND I NOW.
I AM CALLED KITSUNE.
WHAT I AM IS BEYOND YOUR MORTAL COMPREHENSION. AND YET, DESPITE APPEARANCES, I AM NOTHING YOU NEED FEAR.
I POSE NO THREAT TO YOU. I AM SIMPLY HERE TO GUIDE YOU...
...TO UNCOVER YOUR EYES AND SHOW YOU THE TRUE MENACE THAT LURKS WITHIN THE DARKEST SHADOWS OF YOUR LIFE.
AND REVEAL TO YOU WHERE YOUR ULTIMATE SALVATION LIES!

"AND WHERE BETTER TO START, YOUNG LEONARDO, THAN THE BEGINNING?

"THE BEGINNING OF THE LIES."

I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU FROM HARM.

MY SON, YOU NEED NOT FEAR.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE SAFE WITH ME, IN OUR HOME.

DO YOU SEE? ALL IS WELL. FATHER HAS EVEN BROUGHT A GIFT FOR YOU.

WHERE IS YOUR GRATITUDE?

YOU SAID... SAID YOU WOULD KEEP US SAFE! HELP!

YOU DISAPPOINT ME, MY PUPIL.

IT IS ALL RIGHT, LEONARDO!

I AM HERE NOW!

YOU... YOU SAVED ME.

A TRUE SENSEI KNOWS WHAT IS NEEDED WHEN DANGER APPROACHES— ALWAYS ACTION, NEVER WORDS.

NOW, RUN, CHILD...

...RUN!

WHA... HOW?

OH, NO.

"OH, YES, LEONARDO, DO YOU BEGIN TO SEE? THE BROKEN PROMISES... THE EMPTY WORDS...

"...THE DEEDS OF LOWLY VERMIN."

NO! GET AWAY FROM ME!

LEONARDO! THIS WAY— QUICKLY!

MASTER?!

FASTER, LEONARDO! TO ME!

I'M COMING, SENSEI!

KRSSH

BE STRONG...

...I HAVE YOU.

WAIT—THAT WAS YOU... *YOUR VOICE* I HEARD.

YES. I WAS CALLING YOU AWAY FROM THE WEAKNESS THAT STIFLES YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL. NOW...

...LEAVE IT BEHIND!

WH-WHOA!

FOOL. YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

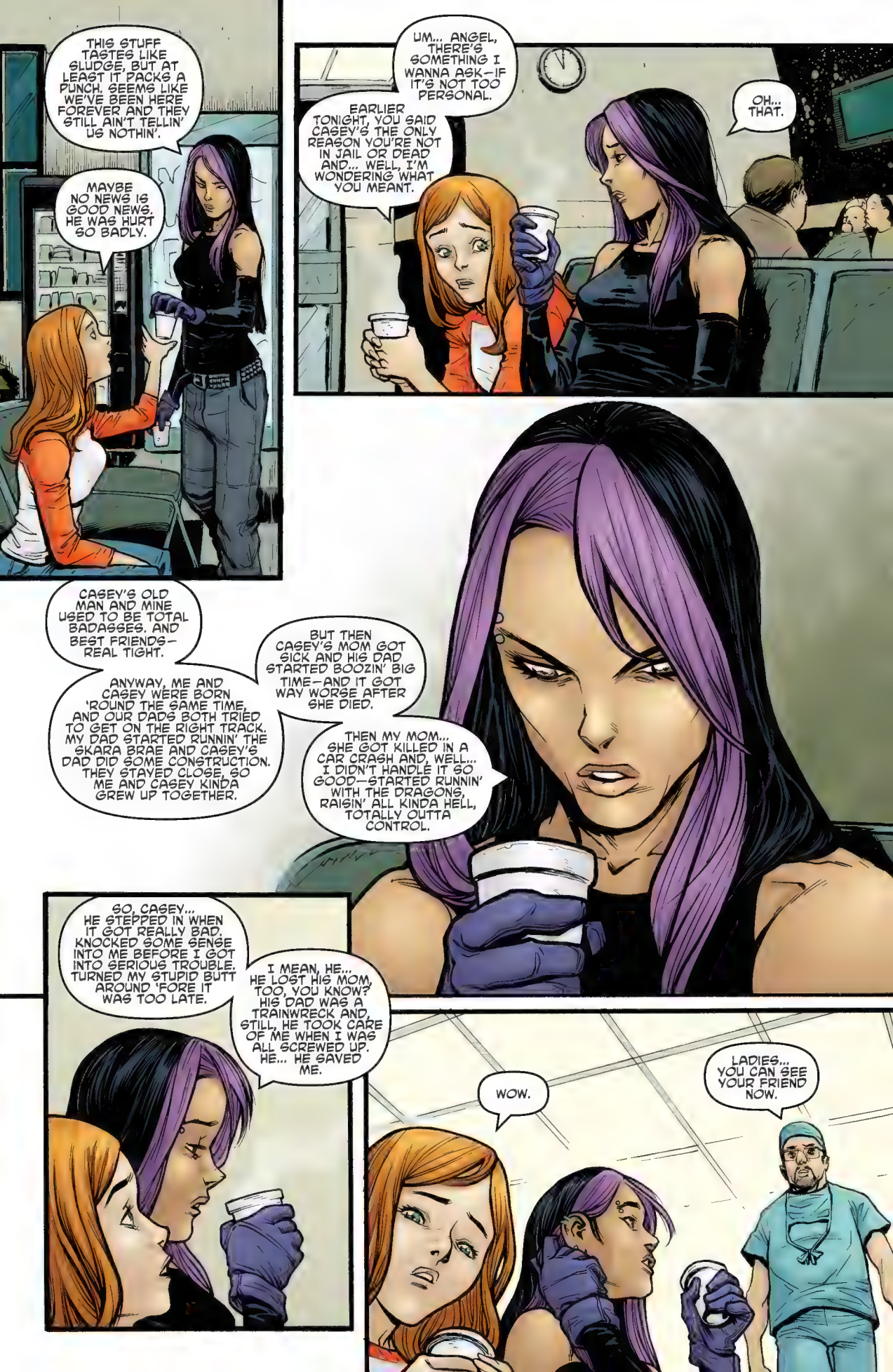
HAVE I TRAINED YOU SO POORLY?

BUT... F-FATHER... GRK... YOU... YOU CALLED TO ME...

I DID NO SUCH THING.

NO!

AAAAH


THIS STUFF TASTES LIKE SLUDGE, BUT AT LEAST IT PACKS A PUNCH. SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN HERE FOREVER AND THEY STILL AIN'T TELLIN' US NOTHIN'.
MAYBE NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS. HE WAS HURT SO BADLY.
UM... ANGEL, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA ASK—IF IT'S NOT TOO PERSONAL.
EARLIER TONIGHT, YOU SAID CASEY'S THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE NOT IN JAIL OR DEAD AND... WELL, I'M WONDERING WHAT YOU MEANT.
OH... THAT.
CASEY'S OLD MAN AND MINE USED TO BE TOTAL BADASSES. AND BEST FRIENDS—REAL TIGHT.
ANYWAY, ME AND CASEY WERE BORN 'ROUND THE SAME TIME, AND OUR DADS BOTH TRIED TO GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK. MY DAD STARTED RUNNIN' THE SKARA BRAE AND CASEY'S DAD DID SOME CONSTRUCTION. THEY STAYED CLOSE, SO ME AND CASEY KINDA GREW UP TOGETHER.
BUT THEN CASEY'S MOM GOT SICK AND HIS DAD STARTED BOOZIN' BIG TIME—AND IT GOT WAY WORSE AFTER SHE DIED.
THEN MY MOM... SHE GOT KILLED IN A CAR CRASH AND, WELL... I DIDN'T HANDLE IT SO GOOD—STARTED RUNNIN' WITH THE DRAGONS, RAISIN' ALL KINDA HELL, TOTALLY OUTTA CONTROL.
SO, CASEY... HE STEPPED IN WHEN IT GOT REALLY BAD, KNOCKED SOME SENSE INTO ME BEFORE I GOT INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE. TURNED MY STUPID BUTT AROUND 'FORE IT WAS TOO LATE.
I MEAN, HE... HE LOST HIS MOM, TOO, YOU KNOW? HIS DAD WAS A TRAINWRECK AND, STILL, HE TOOK CARE OF ME WHEN I WAS ALL SCREWED UP. HE... HE SAVED ME.
WOW.
LADIES... YOU CAN SEE YOUR FRIEND NOW.

HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL. HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, BUT THE TRANSFUSIONS SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THAT.
THE STAB WOUNDS MAY BE ANOTHER STORY. NO VITAL ORGANS WERE DAMAGED, BUT HE DID SUFFER SIGNIFICANT TRAUMA, PARTICULARLY TO THE ABDOMINAL REGION.
HE ALSO SHOWED SIGNS OF BLUNT FORCE INJURIES TO THE HEAD. ARE YOU SURE HE WAS ONLY STABBED?
HE PLAYS HOCKEY.
NOT ANYMORE—WHETHER HE'S FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THIS OR NOT.
I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE NOW.
UM... PARDON ME.
POOR CASEY. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD CALL HIS DAD, ANGEL?
I ALREADY CALLED MY POP AT THE BAR—TOLD HIM TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO CASEY'S DAD, BUT THAT WORTHLESS DRUNK'LL PROBABLY BE TOO WASTED TO GIVE A CRAP, ANYWAYS.
YOU KNOW, IT AIN'T RIGHT, APRIL. A GOOD GUY LIKE CASEY DON'T DESERVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS...
...BUT THAT LOSER DAD OF HIS SURE AS HELL DOES.
"YES, FLEE..."

"...BUT YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE TRUTH.

"LIKE A MONSTER SEEKING PREY IN THE NIGHT, THE TRUTH...

RRAARGH!

"...WILL HUNT YOU DOWN."

I WON'T LET YOU HURT MY FAMILY!

I'LL KILL YOU *AND* THEM!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING, LEONARDO?!

SHEATHE YOUR WEAPON!

BUT... FAMILY IS EVERYTHING! I HAVE TO KILL HIM!

NO, FOOLISH BOY—YOU DO *NOT* KILL. EVER.

NO... YOU'RE *WRONG!*

IF *YOU* CAN'T PROTECT US...

...THEN *I* WILL.

WHERE...?

HE IS GONE, LEONARDO...

...BUT YOU USED ALL NECESSARY MEANS TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

THIS IS *NEVER* WRONG.

TAKE THIS— A REMINDER OF WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED TODAY.

STRENGTH IS EVERYTHING...

...AND IT SHOULD *ALWAYS* BE USED TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CLAN, NO MATTER THE COST.

HELP, LEO! *PLEASE!*

HE'S GONNA KILL US!

NOBODY MESSES WITH MY BROTHERS!

DO YOU HEAR ME?!

SWISH

NOBODY!

SHHKK

HOW COULD YOU?

BECAUSE, THAT IS HIS NATURE, LEONARDO...

HAHAHAH

TO THE SOUTH
I STILL THINK THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. THAT FREAKIN' CAT'S NOTHIN' BUT TROUBLE—WHY THE HELL WOULD HE EVER WANNA HELP US?
I DO NOT KNOW, RAPHAEL, BUT I BELIEVE WE WILL SOON LEARN THE ANSWER—
—OLD HOB IS THERE... JUST AHEAD. MOVE WITH CAUTION, MY SONS.
I THINK WE LEFT CAUTION BEHIND AT THE CHURCH.
YO, HOB! YOU GOT TWO MINUTES BEFORE MY BETTER JUDGMENT KICKS IN!
HMPH. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SHOW.
OH, CRAP! IS THAT—?
SLASH!
I KNEW LEO DIDN'T KILL HIM!
AND NOW WE KNOW HOW HOB FOUND THE CHURCH.
YOU CAN LOWER THAT HARDWARE—WE AIN'T HERE LOOKIN' FOR A SCRAP.
THEN WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SEEK, OLD HOB?
I'M LOOKIN' TO HELP YOU GET BACK THAT LOST PUP OF YOURS.
A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME WHERE HE IS.
DAMN FLEABAG'S JUST FEEDIN' US A BUNCHA BULL. HE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'.
YOU'RE WRONG.

LOOK, IT AIN'T NO SECRET WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF SQUABBLES. BUT THAT WAS THEN... AND THIS IS NOW.
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, THINGS'RE GETTIN' PRETTY DAMN DICEY IN THE CITY—BIG OL' STREET WAR GETTIN' READY TO BLOW UP IN EVERYONE'S FACES. THE TIME TO PICK SIDES IS COMIN' REAL FAST, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
SEE, WE'RE ALL MIXED UP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S FIGHT—THE STINKIN' HUMANS—BEIN' USED AND ABUSED LIKE THEIR LITTLE PETS TO GET THEM WHAT THEY WANT.
WELL... NO MORE.
THE HUMANS MIGHT NEED US, BUT WE SURE AS HELL DON'T NEED THEM. WE'RE STRONGER, SMARTER... BETTER IN EVERY WAY. A MUTANT ARMY WOULD SMASH THEM IN A HEARTBEAT.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU HERE—I WANT YOU IN MY ARMY. NOT UNDER ME, BUT WITH ME. AND, TO PROVE I'M LEGIT, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE LEONARDO IS. YOU'LL SEE REAL QUICK IT AIN'T ME AND SLASH YOU GOTTA WORRY ABOUT.
IT'S HUMANS...
...ALWAYS HUMANS.
YEP, I KNEW IT—NOTHIN' BUT BULL.
YET, IT APPEARS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST YOU, OLD HOB... FOR NOW.
TAKE ME TO MY SON—AND IF IT TURNS OUT YOU ARE NOT LYING AND WE ARE ABLE TO RETRIEVE HIM, THEN, PERHAPS, I WILL CONSIDER YOUR OFFER.
HEY...
...THAT'S ALL I'M ASKIN'.

WHERE...?

AH, I SEE YOU'VE RETURNED ALONE...

...AN UTTER FAILURE.

NO, YOU'RE WRONG. YOU'RE THE FAILURE.

ALL THIS TIME, ALL YOUR PROMISES TO PROTECT, TO TRAIN... ALL LIES. YOU PRETENDED TO BE MY MASTER... MY FATHER!

AND LIKE A TRUSTING IMBECILE, YOU BELIEVED IT ALL.

WHY LIE TO YOUR OWN SON? WHY?

FOOL— YOU ARE NOT MY SON. MY SONS...

ENOUGH.

HAHAHAHA! A FAILURE! ALWAYS A FAILURE!

NO, HAMATO YOSHI...

GLRGK!

SHIK

...ARE DEAD.

NO.

GRRARG!

AAAHHHG!

SHLIP

THAX

GRASH

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

ENOUGH!

...IT IS YOU WHO HAVE FAILED.

DO YOU SEE THE REALITY NOW, LEONARDO—THE TRUE MONSTER BEHIND THE LIES? THE PATHETIC VERMIN WHO WOULD HAVE YOU PERISH THROUGH WEAKNESS AND UNCERTAINTY?

YES.

THEN YOU ARE READY AT LAST.

YES...

...MASTER!

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

art by TYLER WALPOLE

ALOPEX

12:42 A.M.
CLEANING CREW HAS GONE HOME.
SECURITY GUY IS NAPPING IN HIS SECRET HIDING SPOT (BROOM CLOSET NEXT TO THE LOBBY).
ALOPEX
THE OWNER OF THE BUILDING IS HOLDING AN AFTER-HOURS MEETING.
HE'S A WANNA-BE NINJA LOOKING TO LEVEL UP. ORGANIZING MUSCLE, BUYING INTEL.
THIS IDIOT IS NOT MY CONCERN.
THE FOUR TURNCOATS SELLING HIM THE SECRETS OF MY NINJA CLAN...
...THEY'RE THE MISSION.
CHIK
CHIK
THEY WANT TO BETRAY THE FOOT.
THEY WANT TO BETRAY MY MASTER.

TIME TO GO TO WORK.
SO-CALLED "NINJA" IMMEDIATELY GOES FOR A GUN.
I GET THERE FIRST.
AAAAAH!
SLAM

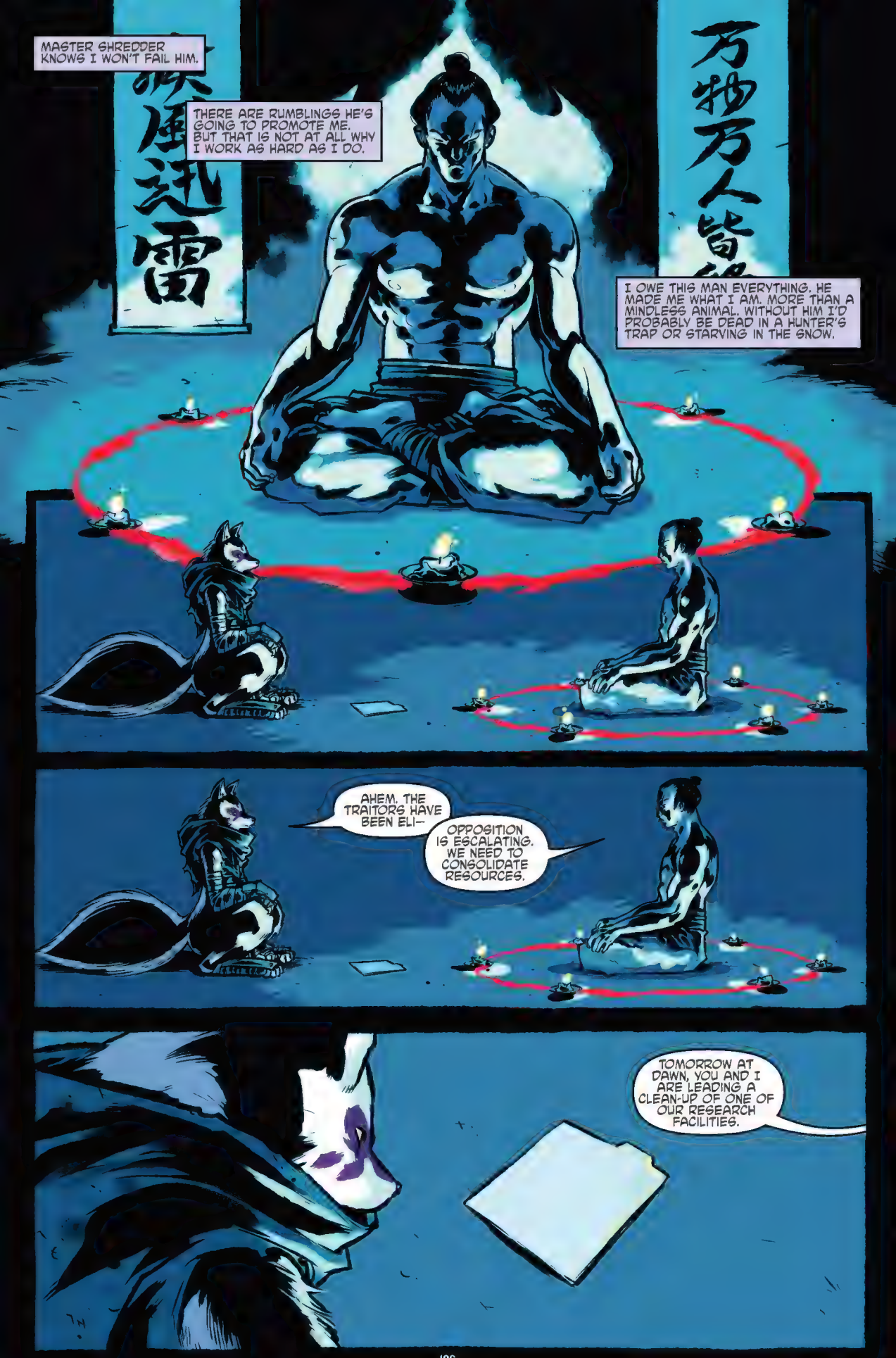
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU?
Pow
I GUESS HE WASN'T EXPECTING A MUTANT ARCTIC FOX.
HOLD IT.

I'M GOING TO WIN. WE ALL KNOW THAT.
WE DON'T—
NO, SHHH, WE DO.
YOU FIGHT WITH THESE. IT'LL BE GOOD PRACTICE FOR WHEN I HAVE ACTUAL OPPONENTS.
MY APOLOGIES TO WHOEVER GETS THE BO.
TONG
STICK WITH THESE WEAPONS, I FIGHT BLIND. DEAL? GREAT.
TRUTH BE TOLD, THIS IS MORE THAN YOU DESERVE. MASTER SHREDDER TOOK YOU IN. HE TRAINED YOU. HE INVITED YOU INTO HIS FAMILY—
SPAK
—AND THIS IS HOW YOU *REPAY HIM?*

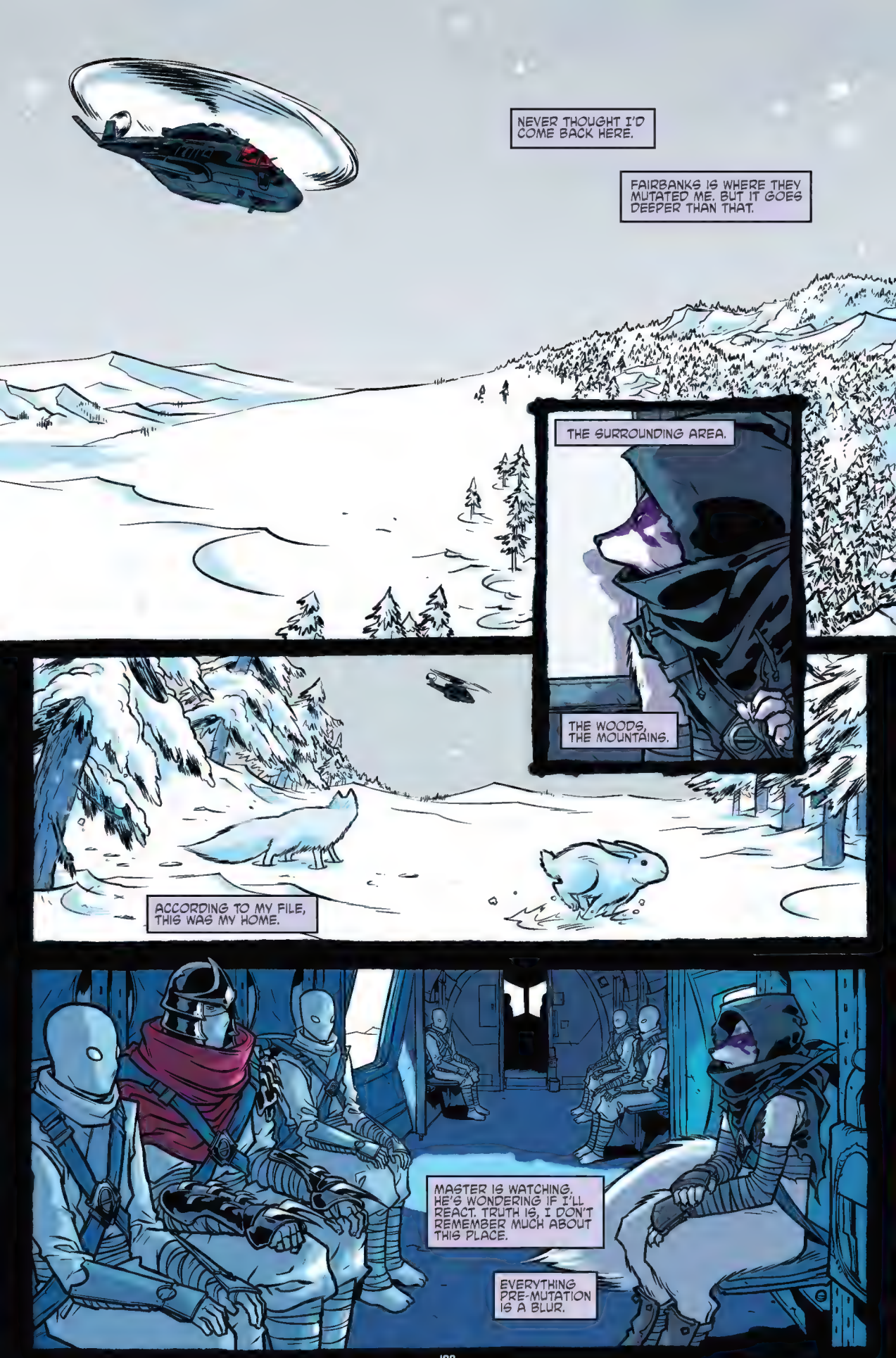
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND—
NO, I GET IT. ENEMIES ARE CLOSING IN. ATTACKS ARE MORE FREQUENT. RATS USUALLY JUMP SHIP AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE.
KRAK
STRIKE THAT. SOME RATS? ACTUALLY PRETTY HONORABLE. DON'T DESERVE TO BE LUMPED IN WITH YOU.

THESE MEN WERE PART OF THE FOOT. PART OF A FAMILY.
THEY HAD A HOME, AND A PURPOSE. A CALLING.
THEY THREW IT ALL AWAY. AND FOR WHAT?
ALOPEX, PLEASE.
KEEP THE MONEY...
...HE'S DISTRACTED, HE CAN'T BE PAYING ATTENTION TO US.
LET US GO, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO KNOW.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE FOOT.

I COVER MY TRACKS...
...AND THEN GO HOME.
THINGS ARE TENSE AT HQ. WE'RE BEING ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES.
MOST OF THE HUMANS AREN'T READY FOR WAR.
SOME ARE.
ALOPEX. HE WANTS TO SEE YOU.
BACK FIVE MINUTES AND ALREADY A NEW MISSION.
MASTER?

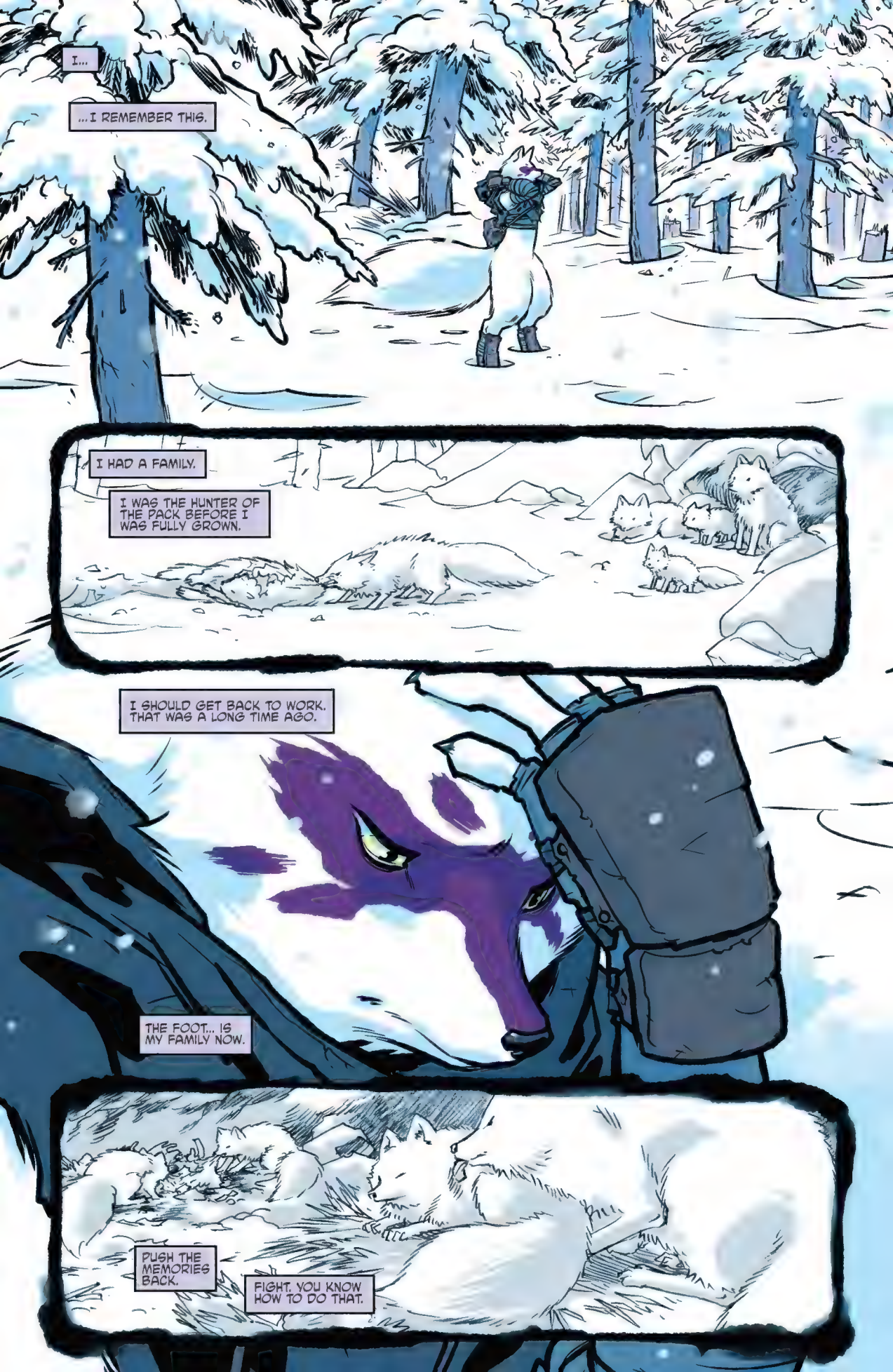

MASTER SHREDDER KNOWS I WON'T FAIL HIM.
THERE ARE RUMBLINGS HE'S GOING TO PROMOTE ME. BUT THAT IS NOT AT ALL WHY I WORK AS HARD AS I DO.
I OWE THIS MAN EVERYTHING. HE MADE ME WHAT I AM. MORE THAN A MINDLESS ANIMAL. WITHOUT HIM I'D PROBABLY BE DEAD IN A HUNTER'S TRAP OR STARVING IN THE SNOW.
AHEM. THE TRAITORS HAVE BEEN ELI—
OPPOSITION IS ESCALATING. WE NEED TO CONSOLIDATE RESOURCES.
TOMORROW AT DAWN, YOU AND I ARE LEADING A CLEAN-UP OF ONE OF OUR RESEARCH FACILITIES.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
NO, SIR.
I KNOW THAT NAME.
IT'S NOT JUST ON THIS FILE.
IT'S ON MINE.
DAWN IT IS, THEN.
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.


NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME BACK HERE.
FAIRBANKS IS WHERE THEY MUTATED ME. BUT IT GOES DEEPER THAN THAT.
THE SURROUNDING AREA.
THE WOODS, THE MOUNTAINS.
ACCORDING TO MY FILE, THIS WAS MY HOME.
MASTER IS WATCHING. HE'S WONDERING IF I'LL REACT. TRUTH IS, I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT THIS PLACE.
EVERYTHING PRE-MUTATION IS A BLUR.

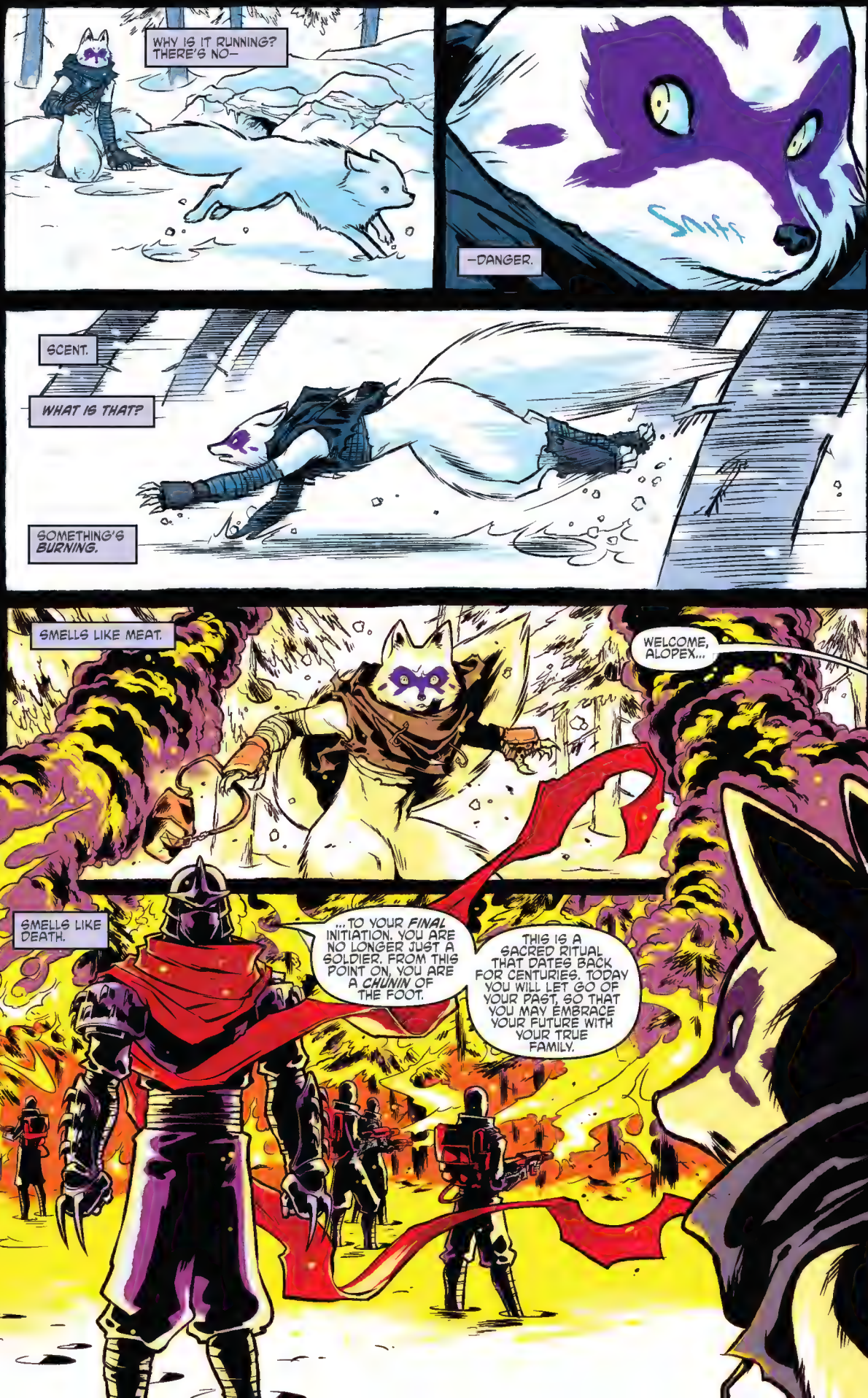
ALL RIGHT.
MASTER SHREDDER WANTS TO SEE WHAT I'M MADE OF.
SO I'LL SHOW HIM.
THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR MONTHS. IT'S PROBABLY EMPTY.
WITH YOUR PERMISSION—
—I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
OKAY, LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK. PLANT THE BOMBS, GRAB ANY USEFUL EQUIPMENT...
CHAK
...BLOW THIS PLACE TO HELL.

GOING TO BE EASY. I DON'T SMELL ANYTHING ALIVE IN THE ENTIRE BUILDING.
THE FACILITY IS DEAD.
OUTSIDE, HOWEVER...
RABBIT.
HEH, I KNOW WHAT THAT'S CALLED NOW. BACK THEN...
...I ONLY KNEW ITS SCENT, KNEW HOW FAST IT RAN, KNEW HOW IT TASTED.
ALL SORTS OF LIFE.
RABBITS, SQUIRRELS...
...THEY COULD HIDE ALL THEY WANTED.
I ALWAYS FOUND THEM.


I...
...I REMEMBER THIS.
I HAD A FAMILY.
I WAS THE HUNTER OF THE PACK BEFORE I WAS FULLY GROWN.
I SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK. THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
THE FOOT... IS MY FAMILY NOW.
PUSH THE MEMORIES BACK.
FIGHT. YOU KNOW HOW TO DO THAT.

KNEW HOW TO FIGHT THEN, TOO.
KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND. FEARED BY ALL. THAT'S WHAT I FELT LIKE, AT LEAST. I WAS JUST A DUMB KID.
THE TRUTH WAS DIFFERENT.
THE BEAR.
THAT MONSTER WASN'T AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

IT WOULD DESTROY ANYTHING IN ITS PATH.
EVERY CREATURE IN THE AREA LIVED AND DIED IN THE SHADOW OF THE BEAR.
SOMETIMES WE HID FOR WEEKS. COULDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE HE WAS NEARBY.
BUT WE SURVIVED. MY FAMILY AND I. WE STAYED TOGETHER.
sniff
MY *OLD* FAMILY.

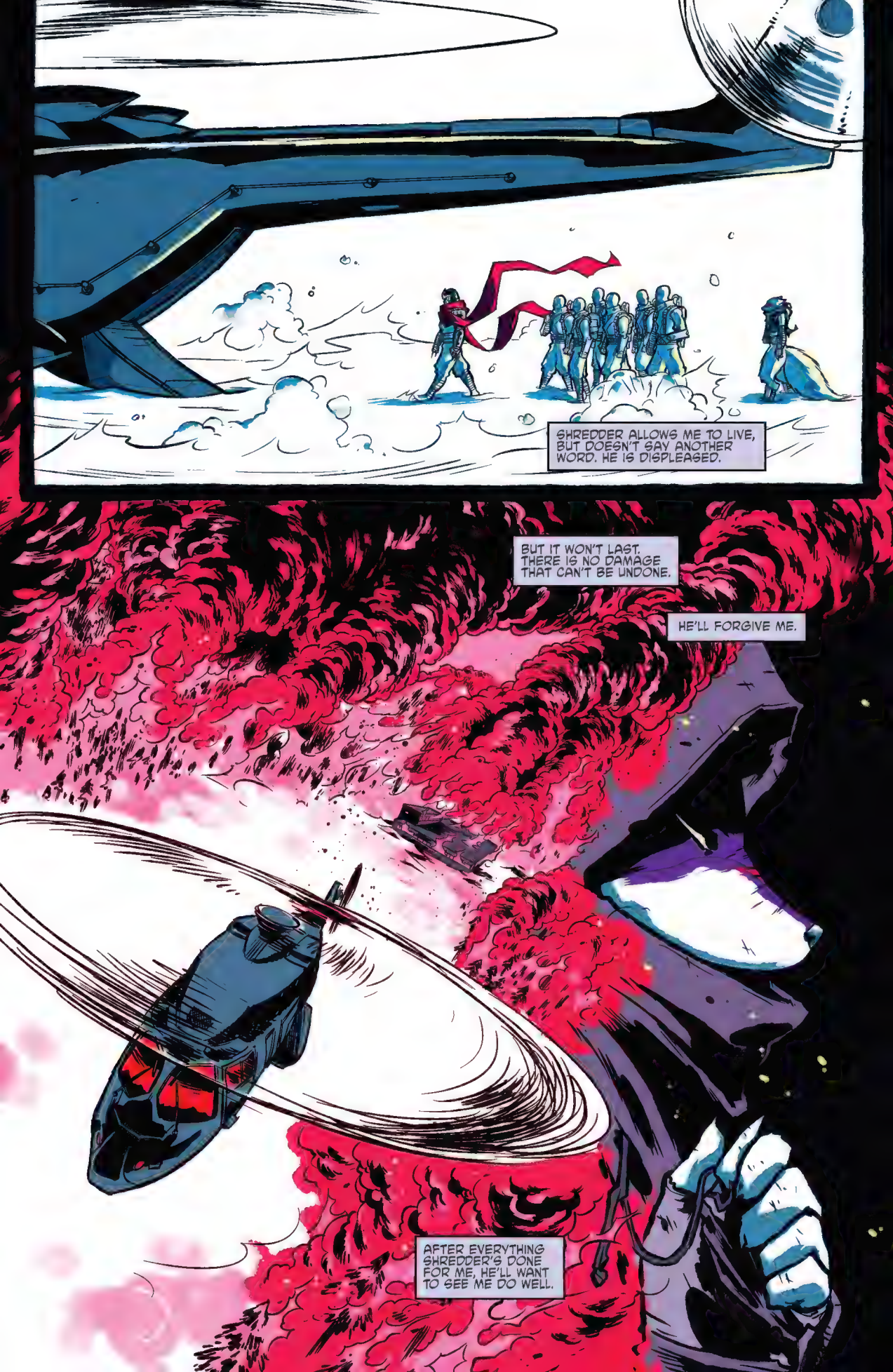

WHY IS IT RUNNING? THERE'S NO—
—DANGER.
SCENT.
WHAT IS THAT?
SOMETHING'S BURNING.
SMELLS LIKE MEAT.
WELCOME, ALOPEX...
SMELLS LIKE DEATH.
...TO YOUR FINAL INITIATION. YOU ARE NO LONGER JUST A SOLDIER. FROM THIS POINT ON, YOU ARE A CHUNIN OF THE FOOT.
THIS IS A SACRED RITUAL THAT DATES BACK FOR CENTURIES. TODAY YOU WILL LET GO OF YOUR PAST, SO THAT YOU MAY EMBRACE YOUR FUTURE WITH YOUR TRUE FAMILY.

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU.
RRRRRRR

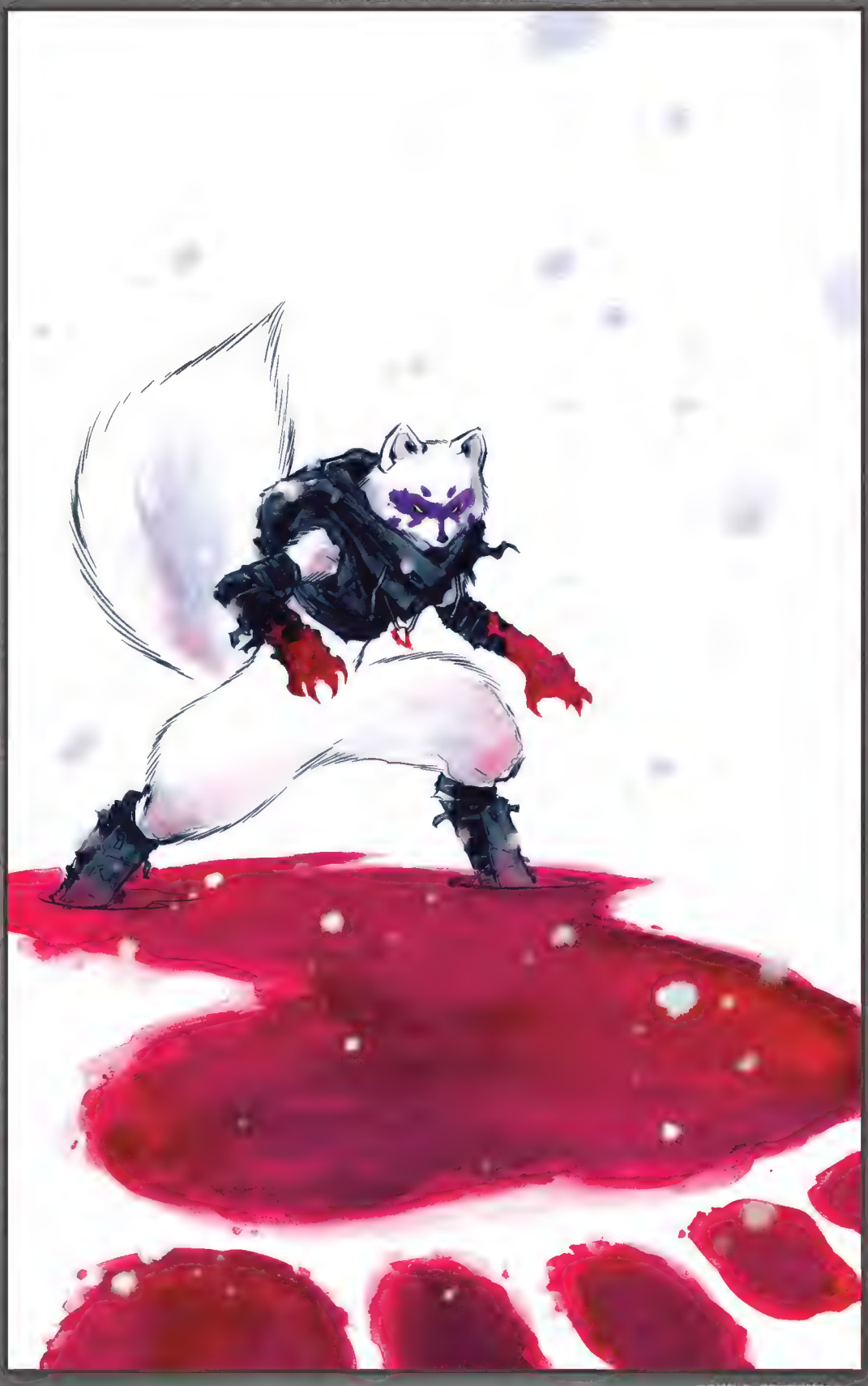
SKISH
NO.
SHUK
YOU HAD MY LOYALTY!
BUT THEN YOU BRING ME BACK HERE.
SHOW ME MY LIFE.
AND THEN YOU DESTROY IT? YOU KILL THEM ALL?

ARE YOU SMILING AT ME?
I AM.
YOU KNOW, IT WAS MY IDEA TO USE FOXES. CRAFTY, SO FAST, PERFECT HUNTERS. I HOLD THEM IN HIGH ESTEEM.
AND LOOK HOW YOU TURNED OUT, JUST INCREDIBLE. YOU ACTUALLY DREW BLOOD.
BUT YOU NEED–
–TO REMEMBER–
–YOUR PLACE.
NEVER TOUCH ME AGAIN.

THIS FOREST WAS FULL OF LIFE. IT'S ALL GONE... YOU'VE DESTROYED THEM ALL...
YOU ACT AS THOUGH YOU'RE STILL ONE OF THEM. YOU'RE NOT.
YOU'RE FOOT.
I WANT TO SLICE IT OFF.
I WANT TO RUN.
I CAN'T.
YOU ARE RIGHT, MASTER. IT WAS... OLD INSTINCT.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE FOOT.


SHREDDER ALLOWS ME TO LIVE, BUT DOESN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD. HE IS DISPLEASED.
BUT IT WON'T LAST. THERE IS NO DAMAGE THAT CAN'T BE UNDONE.
HE'LL FORGIVE ME.
AFTER EVERYTHING SHREDDER'S DONE FOR ME, HE'LL WANT TO SEE ME DO WELL.

I'LL BE HIS GREATEST WARRIOR.
I WILL FIGHT MY WAY BACK TO HIS SIDE.
BUT I KNOW WHO HE IS.
HE'S THE BEAR.
AND THIS TIME...
...I'M GOING TO KILL THE BEAR.
THE END



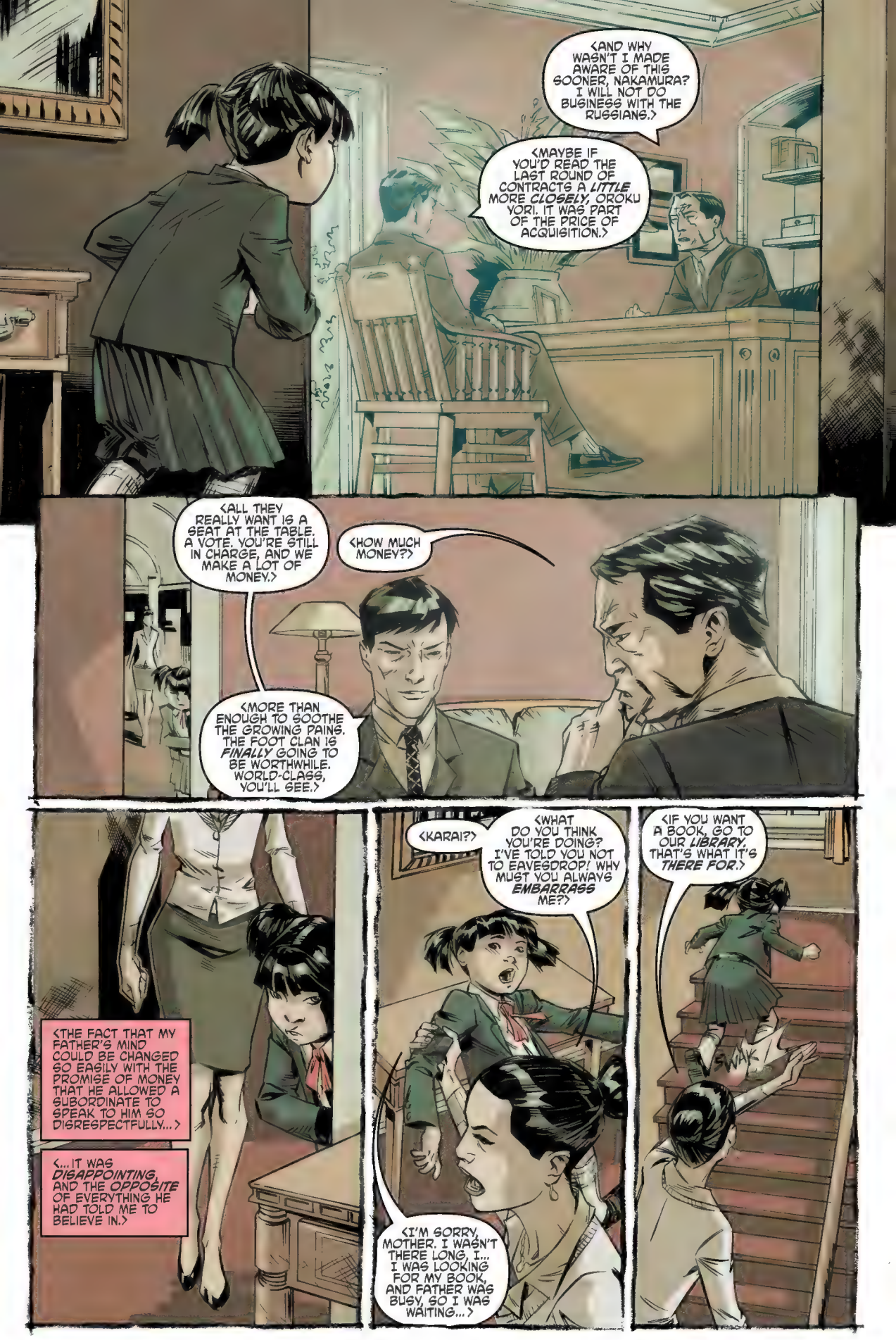
art by SOPHIE CAMPBELL

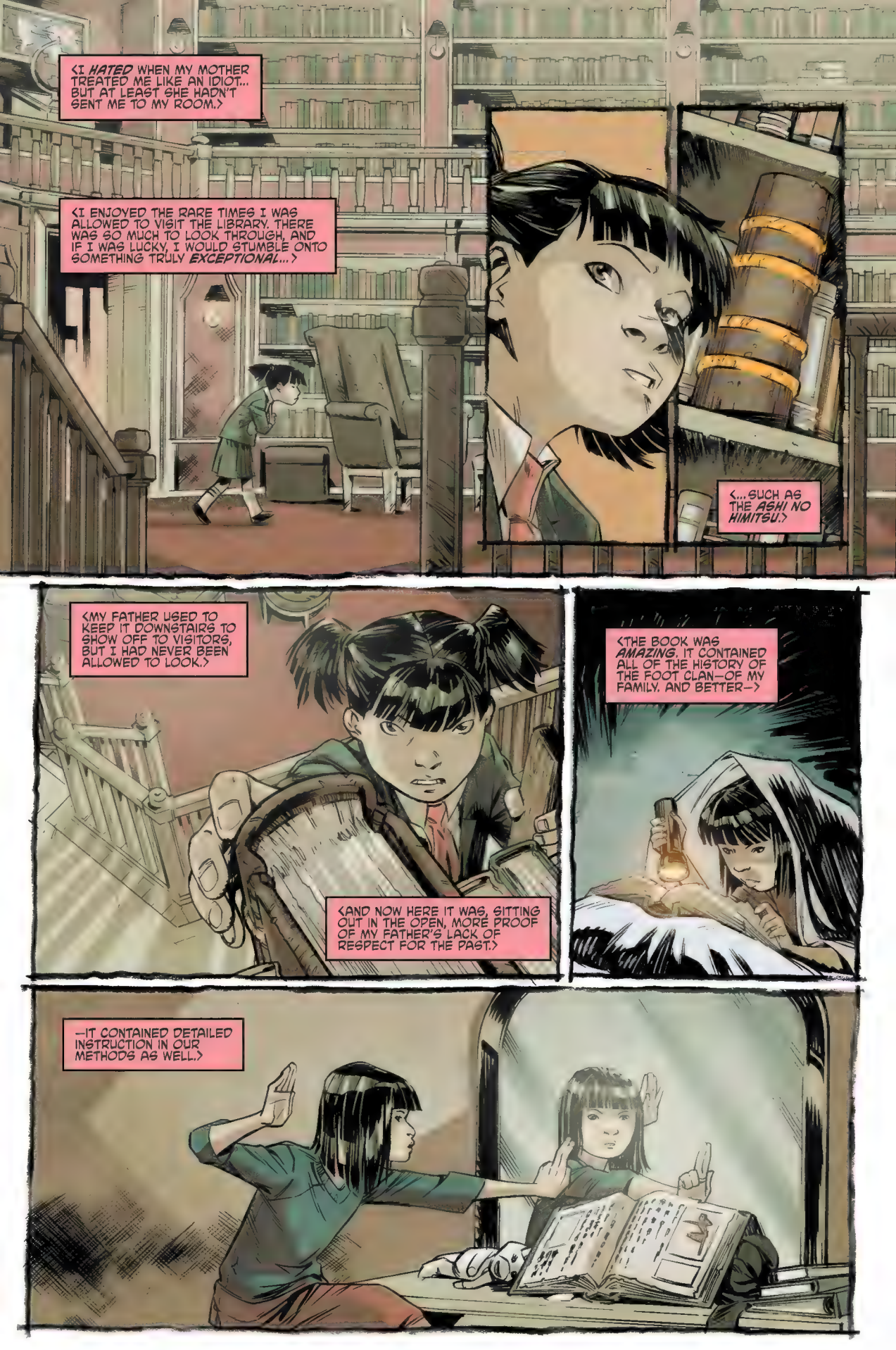
art by TYLER WALPOLE

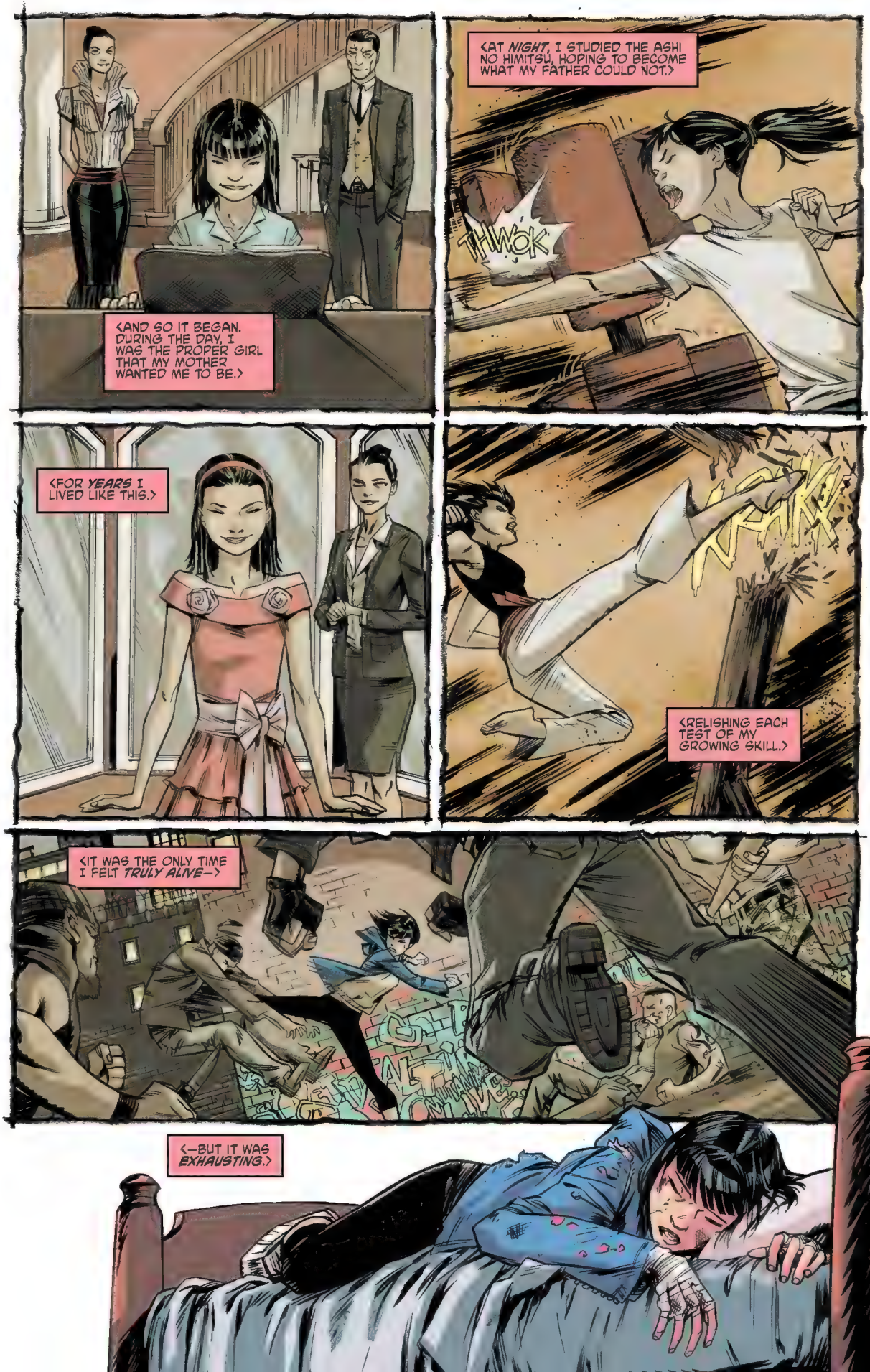
KARAI

THE FOOT CLAN'S GENIN TRAINING FACILITY, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK.
LET US BEGIN!
AND REMEMBER: YOU *MUST* MOVE AS ONE. IT IS A *SIMPLE* THING, BUT IT WILL HELP YOU LEARN *PRECISION.*
AND *PRECISION* IS A VALUABLE *ASSET.*
<I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT TO MY STUDENTS.>
<IT SERVES A PURPOSE. I NOW KNOW WHO IS ABLE TO STEEL THEMSELVES AGAINST *SURPRISE.*>
<REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU DID IT BECAUSE IT *AMUSED* YOU.>
<IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, OLD MAN.>
<AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE SCHOOL TODAY? DO YOU NEED NEW SOLDIERS ALREADY? THESE ONES ARE *NOT* READY.>
<*CLEARLY.* BUT NO, TOSHIRO-SAN. THIS TIME I'VE COME FOR... *COUNSEL.*>

STUDENTS! CONTINUE.
〈LET'S TAKE A WALK.〉
〈YOU TYPICALLY KEEP YOUR OWN COUNSEL.〉
〈OTHER PERSPECTIVES CAN HELP ONE FIND THE PROPER DIRECTION, AND AT THE MOMENT I AM UNSURE WHAT THE PROPER DIRECTION IS.〉
〈MY POSITION IN THE FOOT CLAN HAS BEEN... ALTERED, AND I MUST DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED.〉
〈IF YOU CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR NEW PLACE, YOU MUST EITHER CHALLENGE THE MASTER FOR LEADERSHIP, OR, PERHAPS, DISAPPEAR.〉
〈I CANNOT BEST MY GRANDFATHER... NOT YET. NOR CAN I LEAVE. NO, WITHOUT THE FOOT CLAN, I AM NOTHING.〉
〈THAT CANNOT BE TRUE. WHAT WERE YOU BEFORE YOU FELT THIS WAY?〉
〈...YOUNGER.〉
〈WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY FATHER TOLD ME STORIES OF THE FOOT CLAN'S LEGENDARY KUNOICHI. HE TOLD ME TO REMEMBER THAT WE HAD DESCENDED FROM A POWERFUL NINJA CLAN, AND THAT I SHOULD EMBRACE AND DRAW STRENGTH FROM THIS.〉
〈BUT AS I GREW, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT FOLLOW HIS OWN ADVICE. MY FATHER HAD NO USE FOR THE PAST. HIS MODERN VERSION OF THE FOOT CLAN WAS A LEGION OF LAWYERS AND ACCOUNTANTS.〉
〈THEY WERE AS CAPABLE OF DECEIT AND TRICKERY AS ANY NINJA, BUT THEIR WEAPONS WERE FAR LESS EFFECTIVE...〉


<AND WHY WASN'T I MADE AWARE OF THIS SOONER, NAKAMURA? I WILL NOT DO BUSINESS WITH THE RUSSIANS.>
<MAYBE IF YOU'D READ THE LAST ROUND OF CONTRACTS A *LITTLE* MORE *CLOSELY*, OROKU YORI. IT WAS PART OF THE PRICE OF ACQUISITION.>
<ALL THEY REALLY WANT IS A SEAT AT THE TABLE. A VOTE. YOU'RE STILL IN CHARGE, AND WE MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.>
<HOW MUCH MONEY?>
<MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SOOTHE THE GROWING PAINS. THE FOOT CLAN IS *FINALLY* GOING TO BE WORTHWHILE. WORLD-CLASS, YOU'LL SEE.>
<THE FACT THAT MY FATHER'S MIND COULD BE CHANGED SO EASILY WITH THE PROMISE OF MONEY THAT HE ALLOWED A SUBORDINATE TO SPEAK TO HIM SO DISRESPECTFULLY...>
<...IT WAS *DISAPPOINTING*, AND THE *OPPOSITE* OF EVERYTHING HE HAD TOLD ME TO BELIEVE IN.>
<KARAI?>
<WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO EAVESDROP! WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS *EMBARRASS* ME?>
<I'M SORRY, MOTHER. I WASN'T THERE LONG, I... I WAS LOOKING FOR MY BOOK, AND FATHER WAS BUSY, SO I WAS WAITING...>
<IF YOU WANT A BOOK, GO TO OUR *LIBRARY*, THAT'S WHAT IT'S *THERE FOR*.>
SWAK


<I *HATED* WHEN MY MOTHER TREATED ME LIKE AN IDIOT... BUT AT LEAST SHE HADN'T SENT ME TO MY ROOM.>
<I ENJOYED THE RARE TIMES I WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT THE LIBRARY. THERE WAS SO MUCH TO LOOK THROUGH, AND IF I WAS LUCKY, I WOULD STUMBLE ONTO SOMETHING TRULY *EXCEPTIONAL*...>
<...SUCH AS THE *ASHI NO HIMITSU*.>
<MY FATHER USED TO KEEP IT DOWNSTAIRS TO SHOW OFF TO VISITORS, BUT I HAD NEVER BEEN ALLOWED TO LOOK.>
<AND NOW HERE IT WAS, SITTING OUT IN THE OPEN, MORE PROOF OF MY FATHER'S LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE PAST.>
<THE BOOK WAS *AMAZING*. IT CONTAINED ALL OF THE HISTORY OF THE FOOT CLAN—OF MY FAMILY. AND BETTER—>
—IT CONTAINED DETAILED INSTRUCTION IN OUR METHODS AS WELL.>


〈AND SO IT BEGAN. DURING THE DAY, I WAS THE PROPER GIRL THAT MY MOTHER WANTED ME TO BE.〉
〈AT *NIGHT*, I STUDIED THE ASHI NO HIMITSU, HOPING TO BECOME WHAT MY FATHER COULD NOT.〉
THWOK
〈FOR *YEARS* I LIVED LIKE THIS.〉
KRAK
〈RELISHING EACH TEST OF MY GROWING SKILL.〉
〈IT WAS THE ONLY TIME I FELT *TRULY ALIVE*—〉
〈—BUT IT WAS *EXHAUSTING*.〉

<EVEN IN MY DREAMS THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE TO REST.>
<YOU HAVE *REMARKABLE FORM* FOR ONE WITH NO *TRUE* INSTRUCTION—>
<—PERHAPS YOU ARE OF MY *BLOOD* AFTER ALL.>
<WHO—>
<I AM *OROKU SAKI*, GIRL.>
<YOU MAY CALL ME *GRANDFATHER*.>

〈YOU DO NOT FEAR ME.〉
〈I HAVE READ THE WORDS OF OROKU SAKI. HE DIED *HUNDREDS OF YEARS* AGO, WHICH MAKES THIS A *DREAM*.〉
〈AND WHAT DO I HAVE TO FEAR FROM A DREAM?〉
〈WHAT—〉
AI!
SCHLCK
〈DOES ONE FEEL *PAIN* IN A DREAM, GRANDDAUGHTER?〉
〈YOU ARE A—NGH—A *GHOST*, THEN. WHY HAVE YOU COME TO ME?〉
〈HAH. AND *STILL* YOU DO NOT FEAR ME. *VERY GOOD*.〉
〈THE FOOT CLAN HAS BEEN *CORRUPTED*, GRANDDAUGHTER. I HAVE SEEN IT, AND I AM DISAPPOINTED.〉
〈DON'T BE. I PLAN TO TAKE IT BACK.〉
〈AND HOW WILL YOU DO THAT?〉
〈BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. IT IS DUE TO *MY* FATHER'S DECISIONS THAT WE HAVE GONE ASTRAY, SO IT IS MY DUTY TO FIX IT.〉

<IT IS OUR DUTY, GRANDDAUGHTER.>
<BUT... YOU'RE DEAD.>
<THAT CAN BE CHANGED. YOU COULD BRING ME BACK, YOU ALONE. AND THEN, TOGETHER, WE COULD RETURN THE FOOT CLAN TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE.>
<I WILL TEACH YOU THINGS, GRANDDAUGHTER. THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN LOST TO THE YEARS. THINGS THAT MY HEIR WOULD DESERVE TO KNOW...>
<TO DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE PAST...>
<I HAVE SEEN THE RITUAL IN THE ASHI NO HIMITSU. I WILL BRING YOU BACK, GRANDFATHER, OR I WILL TRY...>
<BUT I MUST CORRECT MY FATHER'S MISTAKE FIRST, AND THAT I MUST DO ON MY OWN.>
<I HAVE WAITED FOR CENTURIES, GRANDDAUGHTER. I CAN WAIT A LITTLE BIT LONGER. BUT I HAVE YOUR PROMISE. I WILL HOLD YOU TO IT.>
<WAKE NOW.>
"<—WAKE, AND REMEMBER.>
"<REMEMBER YOUR PROMISES—TO ME, AND TO YOURSELF.>"

<THE NEXT FEW YEARS WERE SPENT BUILDING MY RESOURCES.>
<FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE...>
<TEACHING THEM ENOUGH TO BE *USEFUL*...>
<...AND USING THEM IN MY CAMPAIGN TO CARVE OUT THE CANCER THAT HAD OVERTAKEN THE FOOT.>

—BUT IT WAS THE THIRD ONE IN A WEEK! SURELY WE DON'T NEED TO CONVENE A MEETING JUST TO APPROVE EXTRA SECURITY. WE'RE BEING *TARGETED* BY—
—WELL, NO, I DON'T KNOW *WHO*. BUT ALL THE SAME, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD... I—YES, SIR. YES, I WILL REQUEST THAT MR. OROKU CALL A MEETING TO DISCUSS OUR OPTIONS.
THANK YOU.
UNBELIEVABLE!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHAT?!
THE FOOT CLAN NO LONGER REQUIRES YOUR SERVICES.
WHAT DO YOU—WHO IS THIS? DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE SPEAKING TO?
OF COURSE...
OH!
KNASH

HFF! HFF!
SHUK SHUK SHUK
ARRGH!
YOU ARE PART OF THE PRICE OF ACQUISITION.

〈WITHOUT NAKAMURA, MY FATHER WAS CONSUMED BY THE MORASS THE FOOT HAD BECOME. THE STRESS EVENTUALLY KILLED HIM, LEAVING ME FREE TO REBUILD WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.〉
〈YOU RESURRECTED THE FOOT CLAN, YES. AND THEN YOU RESURRECTED ITS JONIN. INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ESPECIALLY FROM ONE SO YOUNG.〉
〈AND THAT IS MY PROBLEM, TOSHIRO. IT IS WHY I SOUGHT YOUR COUNSEL.〉
〈THE FOOT CLAN IS ON THE VERGE OF POWER THAT RIVALS ANY IN ITS HISTORY, YET THE JONIN I RESURRECTED HAS CHOSEN ANOTHER AS HIS SECOND.〉
〈TOSHIRO—IF I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER BUT MY PAST SUCCESSES, WHAT AM I?〉
SO, YOU'VE BEEN UP HERE WHINING TO AN OLD MAN. IT MAKES SENSE.
WHAT—?!
AND THAT IS WHY YOU'RE NO LONGER CHUNIN, KARAI.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DEAL WITH THINGS ON YOUR OWN.
YOU.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WATCH YOUR TONE. I'M HERE TO ASSESS THIS FACILITY FOR THE MASTER—
—AND SO FAR, I'M *NOT IMPRESSED*. WE'LL BE NEEDING MORE NINJA SOON, AND THE STUDENTS I JUST SAW PRACTICING ARE NEXT TO *WORTHLESS*.
ARE YOU THAT BAD OF A TEACHER, OLD MAN?
WITH... *RESPECT*, THIS MAN IS AN *EXCELLENT* TEACHER.
I'VE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF THAT.
PERHAPS YOU *WOULD* IF YOU GAVE HIM THE PROPER AMOUNT OF TIME TO *TRAIN* NEW RECRUITS BEFORE YOU SEND THEM TO THEIR DEATHS.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THEY HAVE ANOTHER PURPOSE?
NO, I'M—
I DON'T CARE.
YOUR OPINION IS *WORTHLESS* TO ME. IN FACT, YOUR *ONLY* WORTH IS IN HOW FAST YOU CAN *DO* WHAT I *TELL YOU* TO DO.
BEYOND THAT, YOU'RE *OBSOLETE*.

I TRULY HATE THIS CREATURE.
ALL MY EFFORT TO BRING THE FOOT BACK TO GLORY COULD BE UNDONE BY HIM IN A MOMENT.
BUT I CANNOT STOP HIM WITHOUT DEFYING THE MASTER.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.
MAYBE YOU DISAGREE? DON'T THINK YOU'RE OBSOLETE?
POOR LITTLE KARAI. OF COURSE YOU ARE. I'VE HEARD YOU TRYING TO ROUSE THE GENIN BEFORE BATTLE, GOING ON ABOUT THE HONOR OF THE FOOT CLAN, AND TAKING STRENGTH FROM OUR PAST.
THE PAST IS WHERE THE DEAD LIVE. LEADERS MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE.
HM. TOUCHED A NERVE, DIDN'T I? WILL YOU GO CRYING TO THE MASTER NEXT, ABOUT HOW HIS CHUNIN HURT YOUR FEELINGS?
I TELL YOU WHAT—I'M WILLING TO SETTLE THINGS NOW. IF YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER SUITED TO LEAD THAN I AM, PROVE IT.
ATTACK ME.
WELL? ARE YOU—
—NGH!
THWACK

HRR!
THIS MAY NOT BE A WASTED TRIP AFTER ALL.
IT APPEARS I'LL *FINALLY* GET TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE.
KIYAA!

I KNOW I SHOULD NOT HAVE ATTACKED HIM, BUT AT LEAST I CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR *DISOBEDIENCE*.

CHNK

WE HAVE FOUGHT BEFORE, MANY TIMES. BUT THIS TIME IS *DIFFERENT*.

HE SEEMS *SLOWER*.

THUT

LESS *CERTAIN* IN HIS MOVEMENT.

I COULD END HIM TODAY, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

KIYAI!
KRKV
UNH!
NNNGHHH...
AFTER ALL, THE TURTLE DID PROVOKE THIS FIGHT.
STILL...
WHA—
HUNH!

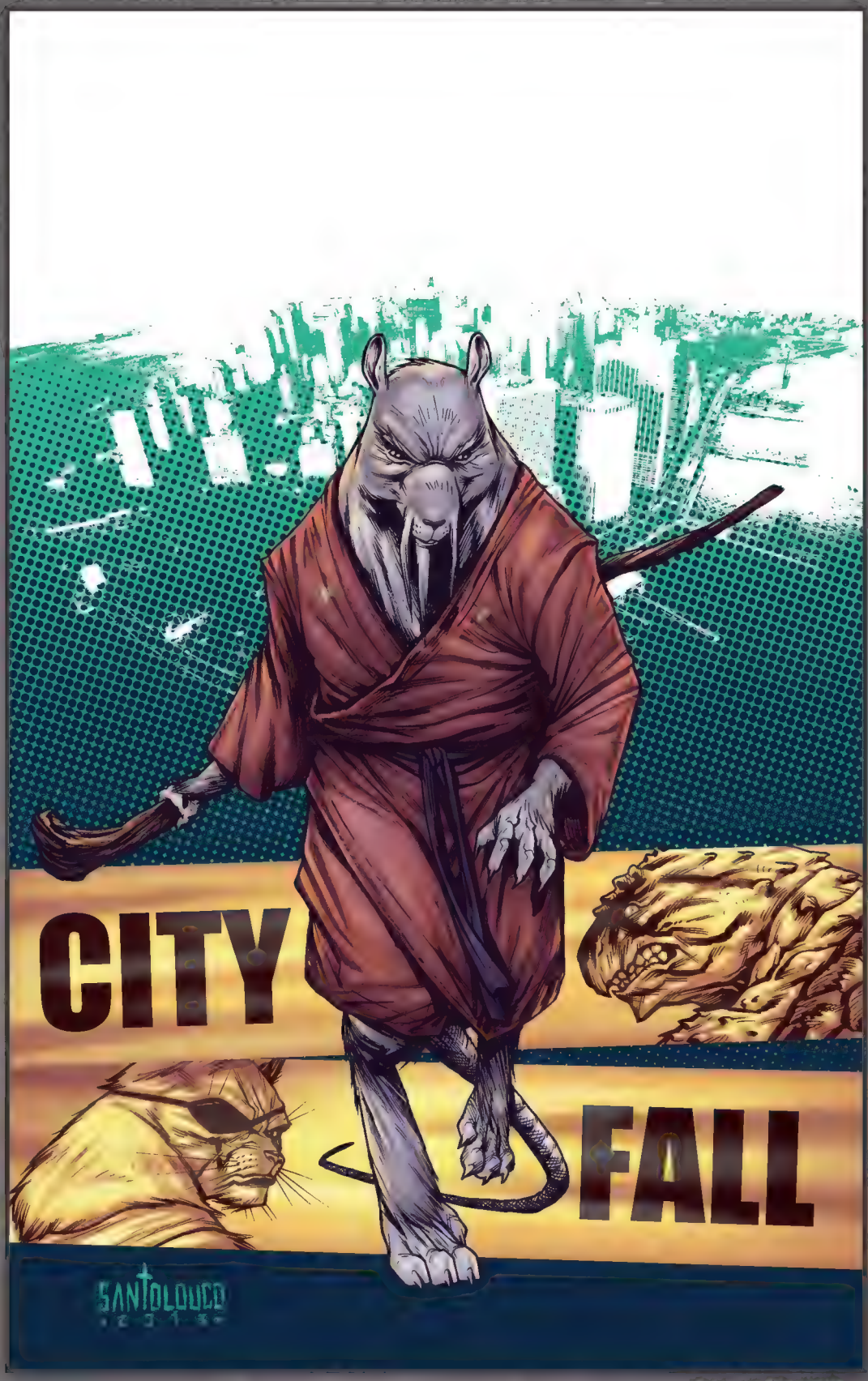
I SUBMIT... CHUNIN.
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NOTHING.
I HOPE THIS HAS REMINDED YOU OF YOUR PLACE.
I DEFINITELY KNOW WHAT I DESERVE.
AND AS FOR YOU, OLD MAN—IF THE QUALITY OF TRAINING DOES NOT IMPROVE, MY NEXT VISIT WILL NOT BE SO PLEASANT.
HAI, CHUNIN.
HNH. I'LL BE WATCHING.
<TELL ME WHY YOU DID NOT KILL HIM.>
<BECAUSE HE BEAT ME.>
<I AM AN OLD MAN, NOT A BLIND ONE.>
<HMPH. I DID NOT KILL HIM BECAUSE I KNOW HOW MY GRANDFATHER THINKS. IF I HAD KILLED HIS CHUNIN, HE WOULD IN TURN KILL ME FOR DISRESPECTING HIS WILL.>
<NO, I MUST CHANGE MY GRANDFATHER'S MIND FIRST.>

〈BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, I STILL CLAIM VICTORY TODAY.〉
〈I COULD *FEEL* HIS HESITATION, WITH THE BLADE AT MY THROAT. HE DIDN'T HAVE THE RESOLVE TO KILL ME.〉
〈AND IF HE HAD?〉
〈THEN WE BOTH WOULD HAVE DESERVED OUR FATES.〉
〈HE IS *WEAK*, TOSHIRO. AN ANIMAL PLAYING AT BEING A MAN. AND HE NO LONGER THINKS OF ME AS A THREAT... ONE DAY, I SHALL HAVE MY *REVENGE*.〉
〈THE TURTLE WILL REALIZE THAT HE SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME WHEN I GAVE HIM THE CHANCE. HE WILL KNOW THAT MY SKILL SURPASSES HIS. HIS SPIRIT WILL BE BROKEN, AND I WILL END HIM.〉
POK
〈STILL, HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING.〉
〈OH?〉
〈A LEADER *SHOULD* CONCERN HERSELF WITH THE FUTURE.〉
〈SO YOU HAVE DECIDED ON A DIRECTION AFTER ALL?〉

TWO DAYS LATER.
SHORAI
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO CAN *TAKE* IT.
ROOM 6
WE ARE LIMITED ONLY BY THE LEVEL OF POWER THAT WE POSSESS.
YOU ALL KNOW THIS. THAT'S WHY YOU VOLUNTEERED. YOU ALL WANT THE POWER TO CHANGE THE FUTURE, AND I ALONE CAN GIVE IT TO YOU.
I NEED ONLY *TWO* OF YOU. AND SO, WE WILL CONDUCT ONE *FINAL* TEST TO DETERMINE WHO WILL MOVE FORWARD.
UHM...
WHAT *KINDA* TEST?

THE SIMPLEST ONE OF ALL.
KRAK
LAST ONES STANDING STAY.
LET US BEGIN.

art by CORY SMITH



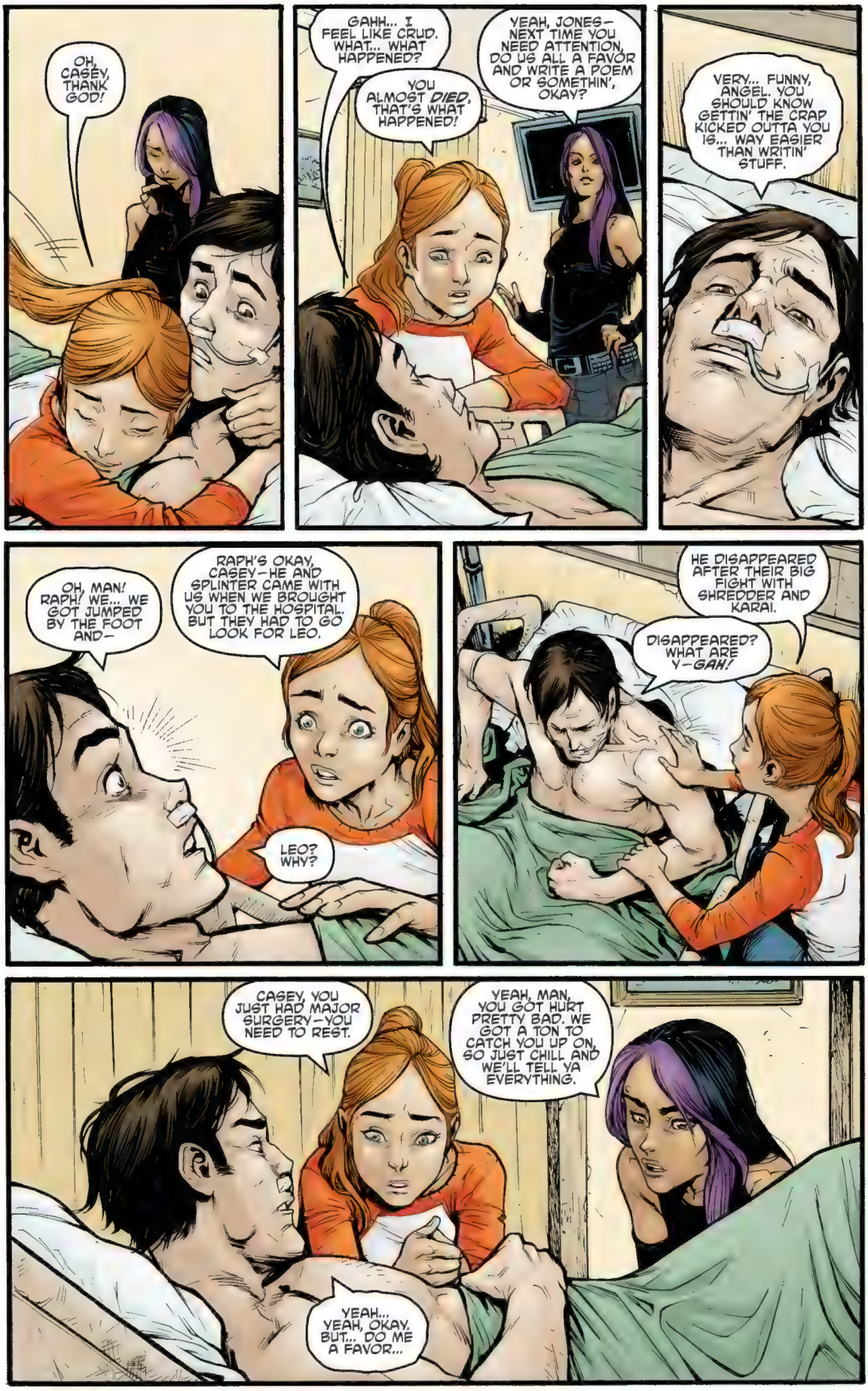
art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

ISSUE #24

〈GRANDDAUGHTER.〉

<GRANDFATHER, I... I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE WATCHING ME.>
<YOUR TECHNIQUE— KOREAN, YES? GEOMMU?>
<YES, GRANDFATHER. IT IS ONE OF MANY FORMS I USE WHEN TRAINING.>
<I SEE.>
<TRAINING HAS ENDED FOR TODAY. THE TIME HAS COME TO USE YOUR KATANA FOR SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN DANCING ABOUT.>
<ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE COMING BATTLE WITH YOSHI AND HIS BROOD?>
<OF COURSE I AM READY, MASTER SHREDDER.>
<IF I MAY ASK, HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN THE MUTANTS WILL FIND US?>
CITY FALL
PART THREE

I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE, CASEY.
YOU ALWAYS DID HIT THE RINK WHEN THINGS GOT ROUGH.
MOM?
SPAK
THAT SLAP SHOT OF YOURS IS GETTING PRETTY WICKED, KIDDO.
YOU'RE DEFINITELY YOUR FATHER'S SON WHEN IT COMES TO MUSCLES.
SHHH... YOUR DAD'S NO LONGER YOUR CONCERN, CASEY.
YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO HELP HIM AND I'M SO PROUD OF YOU. BUT HE'S ON HIS OWN PATH NOW. HE'S NOT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY ANYMORE.
AND IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP, HON.
MOM... ABOUT DAD. I... I REALLY TRIED TO DO WHAT YOU ASKED, WHAT I PROMISED, BUT HE—
MOM, ARE... ARE YOU AN ANGEL NOW?
...ANGEL... NOW...
...ANGEL... THINK HE'S... WAKING UP NOW...
WH-WHERE... ?


OH, CASEY, THANK GOD!
GAHH... I FEEL LIKE CRUD. WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU ALMOST *DIED*, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
YEAH, JONES— NEXT TIME YOU NEED ATTENTION, DO US ALL A FAVOR AND WRITE A POEM OR SOMETHIN', OKAY?
VERY... FUNNY, ANGEL. YOU SHOULD KNOW GETTIN' THE CRAP KICKED OUTTA YOU IS... WAY EASIER THAN WRITIN' STUFF.
OH, MAN! RAPH! WE... WE GOT JUMPED BY THE FOOT AND—
RAPH'S OKAY, CASEY—HE AND SPLINTER CAME WITH US WHEN WE BROUGHT YOU TO THE HOSPITAL. BUT THEY HAD TO GO LOOK FOR LEO.
LEO? WHY?
HE DISAPPEARED AFTER THEIR BIG FIGHT WITH SHREDDER AND KARAI.
DISAPPEARED? WHAT ARE Y—*GAH!*
CASEY, YOU JUST HAD MAJOR SURGERY—YOU NEED TO REST.
YEAH, MAN, YOU GOT HURT PRETTY BAD. WE GOT A TON TO CATCH YOU UP ON, SO JUST CHILL AND WE'LL TELL YA EVERYTHING.
YEAH... YEAH, OKAY. BUT... DO ME A FAVOR...

"...START WITH WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON WITH THE TURTLES."
YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE, HOB?
POSITIVE. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M LYIN'?
WELL, I AIN'T.
FINE...
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT...

...HOW TO GET IN THERE.
LEAVE THAT TO ME.
MAN, I SINCERELY DO NOT TRUST THIS FLEA-BITER.
YEAH—HE SURE SEEMS TO CONVENIENTLY HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, DOESN'T HE?
I AGREE WITH YOUR CONCERNS, MY SONS. BUT I DO BELIEVE OLD HOB KNOWS WHERE LEONARDO IS—THAT IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE ME TO FOLLOW HIM.
HEY... WHERE'S MIKEY?

RRRGGHHH...
DUDE, CHILLAX... YOU DON'T GOTTA BE SO GRUMPY. HAVE A CANDY BAR—YOU'LL LOVE IT.
SNIF SNIF
SMELLS YUMMY, HUH? DON'T WORRY—IT WON'T HURT YOU.
DONNIE TOLD ME CHOCOLATE MAKES DOGS SICK, SO I'M SAVIN' THIS ONE FOR THAT STUPID MUTT ALOPEX.
C'MON, MIKEY! TIME TO GET LEO.
GOTTA GO. HOB SAYS YOU'RE STAYIN' HERE, SO WHEN THIS IS ALL DONE, I'LL COME BACK AND SHOW YOU PIZZA, PROMISE!
CAN...
...DEE!
HEY, GUYS, TURNS OUT SLASH AIN'T SUCH A BAD DUDE AFTER ALL. HE DIDN'T TRY TO EAT ME OR NOTHIN'.
YO, LADIES...
ONLY YOU, MIKEY... ONLY YOU.
...WE DOIN' THIS THING OR WHAT?
YES, OLD HOB. LEAD THE WAY...

"...WE WILL FOLLOW."
BREAKING AND ENTERING? SERIOUSLY?
YEAH, BECAUSE KNOCKING WOULD BE SO MUCH BETTER, RIGHT, TURTLE?
KICK
AFTER YOU.

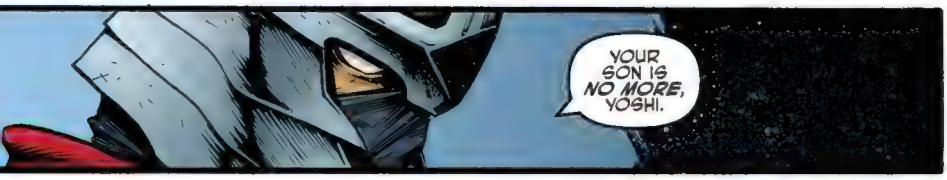
WHAT? NO MORE LEADIN' THE WAY?
HEY, IT'S A DARK ROOM AND YOU GOT THE POINTY KNIVES AND STICKS— I'LL GLADLY FOLLOW.
WHOA... IT *IS* DARK IN HERE.
MIKEY, QUIET!
WHAT THE—?!
SLAM
HOB!
DAMMIT, HOB! I *KNEW* YOU WERE FULL OF CRAP!
YOU SAY *CRAP*, LITTLE TURTLE, I SAY *BRAINS*. YOU MIGHT BE A BUNCHA DEATH-WISH IDIOTS...
SNP
...BUT I SURE AS HELL AIN'T NO DUMMY.

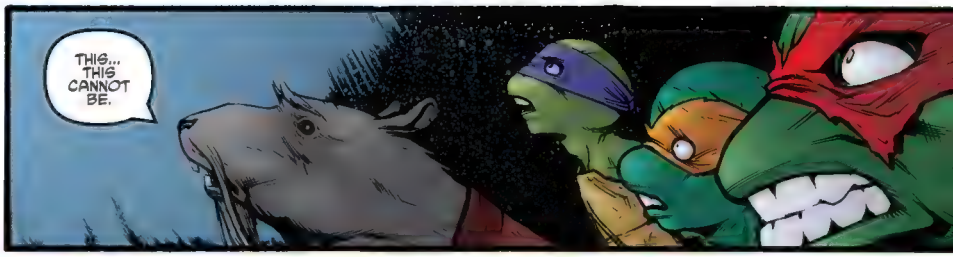
STINKIN' FLEABAG, I OUGHTA—
LET HIM GO, RAPHAEL. OLD HOB DID WHAT HE PROMISED.
HAMATO YOSHI... SO KIND OF YOU TO JOIN US.
UH-OH.
IT IS NOT KINDNESS THAT DRIVES THIS VISIT, OROKU SAKI.
SHOW YOURSELF—I WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU NOW.
BUT OF COURSE.
KLIK
WELCOME, YOSHI, TO THE BEGINNING...
...AND THE END.

I DON'T SEE LEO ANYWHERE.
NAH... JUST PINHEAD, HIS BOWL-CUT BRAT, AND THAT MANGY POOCH.
REMAIN CALM AND ON GUARD. I WILL SPEAK TO SAKI—DO NOT INSTIGATE ANYTHING YET, MY SONS.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD, RAPHAEL?
BUT I, UH... UM...
...YEAH, OKAY. UNDERSTOOD.
WE ARE HERE FOR MY SON, OROKU SAKI... FOR LEONARDO. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD YOU HOLD HIM PRISONER. WE DEMAND HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN.
BLOOD NEED NOT BE SHED THIS DAY, BUT BE AWARE—WE WILL USE ALL MEANS NECESSARY TO RETRIEVE OUR LOVED ONE.
AH, BUT I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS, YOSHI, THOUGH I MUST INFORM YOU THAT BLOOD HAS ALREADY BEEN SPILLED.
I TOLD YOU TONIGHT BELONGS TO BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS, DID I NOT?

"EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MY NINJA ARE MOVING TO TIGHTEN MY GRIP ALL ACROSS THIS GREAT CITY...
...CUTTING DOWN ALL AND ALL WHO DARE OPPOSE MY RULE.
"MY LONG-AWAITED DESTINY IS FINALLY AT HAND...
"...AND I WILL CRUSH ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO STAND IN MY WAY."

SADLY, HOWEVER, YOU WILL NOT BE ALIVE TO WITNESS MY ULTIMATE TRIUMPH, YOSHI.
TONIGHT I END THE NUISANCE YOU HAVE PRESENTED TO ME OVER TWO LIFETIMES.
YOU ARE SORELY MISTAKEN IF YOU BELIEVE FOR EVEN ONE SECOND THAT I CARE FOR YOUR CRIMINAL WARS OR YOUR ARROGANT THREATS.
RETURN MY SON TO ME, OROKU SAKI.


YOUR SON IS NO MORE, YOSHI.


THIS... THIS CANNOT BE.

HEAR ME NOW, DEVIL. IF I CANNOT HAVE MY SON...

...I WILL HAVE YOUR HEAD!

KLANK
NO...

...I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO HARM MY MASTER.

MY SON... YOU LIVE.
BUT WHY ARE YOU—
GRFF!
NO, RODENT...
...YOU ARE WRONG.
SYRHIIPP
I AM NOT YOUR SON.

OH, HELL NO!
IT'S STILL LEO, GUYS!
DON'T HURT HIM, RAPH!
WHAT THE HELL, LEO?! THAT'S OUR FATHER!
I ALREADY SAID...
THWACK
...HE IS NOT MY FATHER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
MIKEY...
...WATCH OUT!
WHAM

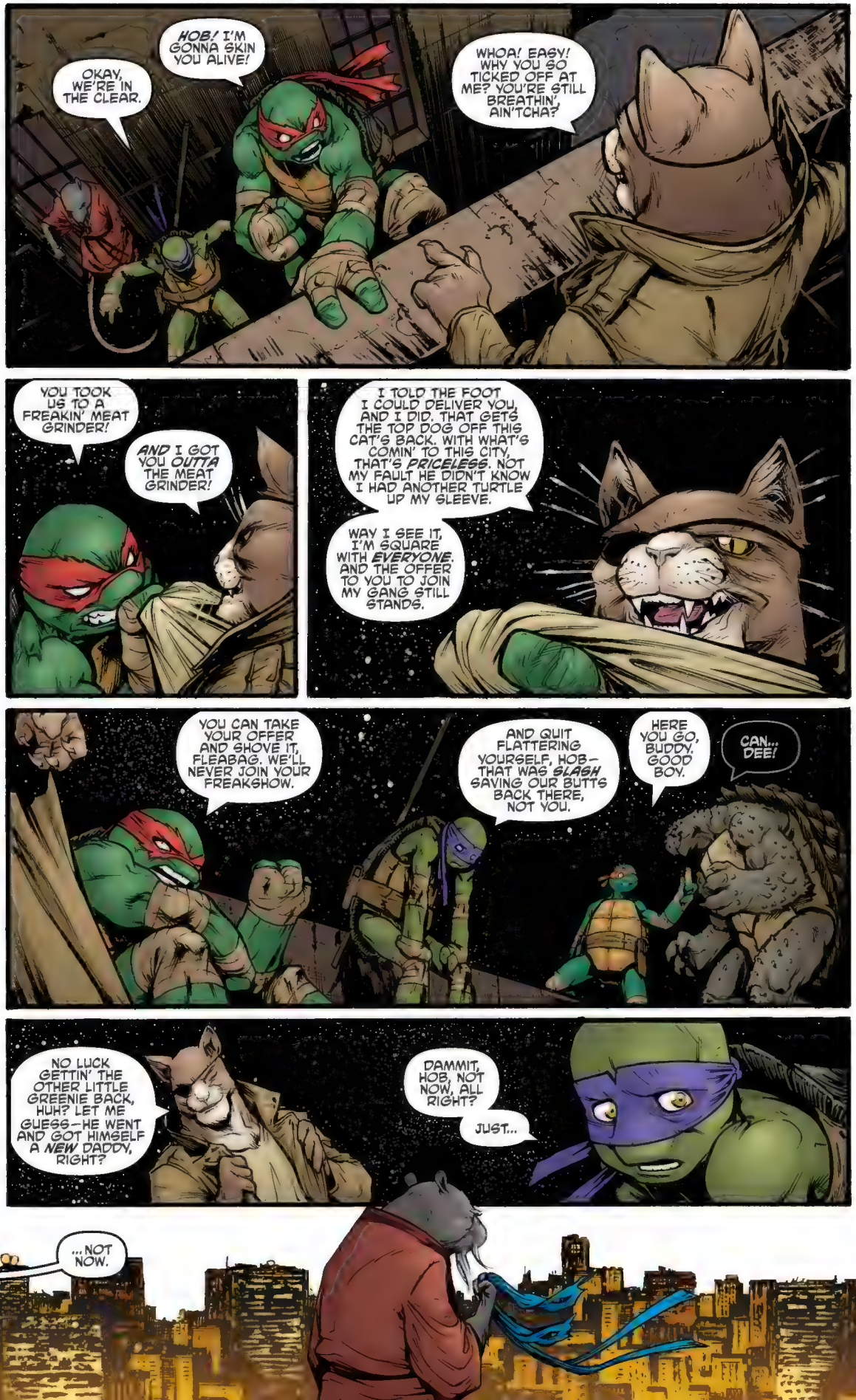
LEO! STOP THIS!
GWAP
GRK
GRRKK...
NO!
WHOMP
THUD

ALL RIGHT, BIG BRO, YOU WANT ROUGH...
...I'LL GIVE YOU ROUGH!
SCHINK
WHA—?!
CHING
GUH!
CRNCH
FWUMP

LEO, PLEASE... NO...
ENOUGH!
LOWER YOUR SWORD, LEONARDO. YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF A WORTHY CHUNIN.
MASTER— WHY DO YOU NOT ALLOW LEONARDO TO EXECUTE HIM?
BECAUSE, KARAI...
THE RAT IS MINE.
YOU MAY HAVE THE REST.

KUK
DAMN.
GUYS...
...RUN!
WHERE?!
THE DOOR WE CAME IN! WE'LL BUST IT OPEN— C'MON!
RAGH!
NO!
OH, MAN, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
JUST MEANS PLENTY OF BUTT TO KICK! BRING IT!
YES, MUTANT...
...WE INTEND TO.

KR-RSSCK
RAAARGH!
SLASH!
CAN-DEE?!
YOU KNOW IT, BIG DUDE! SOON AS WE GET OUTTA HERE!
THE WALL'S GIVING WAY! NOW OR NEVER, GUYS!
LET'S GO, SLASH!
THIS AIN'T OVER, PUNKS!
LEONARDO...


OKAY, WE'RE IN THE CLEAR.
HOB! I'M GONNA SKIN YOU ALIVE!
WHOA! EASY! WHY YOU SO TICKED OFF AT ME? YOU'RE STILL BREATHIN', AIN'TCHA?
YOU TOOK US TO A FREAKIN' MEAT GRINDER!
AND I GOT YOU OUTTA THE MEAT GRINDER!
I TOLD THE FOOT I COULD DELIVER YOU, AND I DID. THAT GETS THE TOP DOG OFF THIS CAT'S BACK. WITH WHAT'S COMIN' TO THIS CITY, THAT'S PRICELESS. NOT MY FAULT HE DIDN'T KNOW I HAD ANOTHER TURTLE UP MY SLEEVE.
WAY I SEE IT, I'M SQUARE WITH EVERYONE. AND THE OFFER TO YOU TO JOIN MY GANG STILL STANDS.
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR OFFER AND SHOVE IT, FLEABAG. WE'LL NEVER JOIN YOUR FREAKSHOW.
AND QUIT FLATTERING YOURSELF, HOB— THAT WAS SLASH SAVING OUR BUTTS BACK THERE, NOT YOU.
HERE YOU GO, BUDDY. GOOD BOY.
CAN... DEE!
NO LUCK GETTIN' THE OTHER LITTLE GREENIE BACK, HUH? LET ME GUESS—HE WENT AND GOT HIMSELF A NEW DADDY, RIGHT?
DAMMIT, HOB, NOT NOW, ALL RIGHT?
JUST...
...NOT NOW.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

art by TYLER WALPOLE

HUN

I GUESS I'VE DONE SOME BAD THINGS. BUT I'M NOT A BAD GUY. I JUST HAD DEMONS, YOU KNOW?
ANYWAY... I'M ARNOLD, AND I'M AN ALCOHOLIC.
HI, ARNOLD.

"GUESS IT GOES BACK TO WHEN I WAS A KID. FOR A WHILE THERE, I WAS PRETTY WILD.
"BUT THEN I MET A GIRL. GOT MARRIED. SHE STRAIGHTENED ME OUT."
IT GROWS BACK. I PROMISE.
"WE EVEN HAD A KID. A BOY. THINGS WERE GOOD...
"...'TIL THEY WEREN'T. 'TIL MY WIFE GOT SICK. IT HIT ME HARD, SO I STARTED HITTIN' THE BOTTLE EVEN HARDER. LOST MY JOB.
"WASN'T AN EASY TIME FOR ME AND MY BOY. WE HAD SOME... DISAGREEMENTS.
"LAST MONTH I HIT BOTTOM, AND I KNEW I HAD TO TURN IT AROUND."

"SEE, MY BOY LANDED HIMSELF IN THE HOSPITAL. I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW. BUT HE WAS HURT BAD.
"AND HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO BE STRONG FOR HIM...
"...WHEN I COULDN'T EVEN BE STRONG FOR MYSELF?"
HEY! ARNIE!
ANGEL TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR BOY. COME ON IN. LEMME GET YOU A DRINK.

SO YOU FIGURE OUT WHO SLICED HIM UP?
NAH.
KIDS TODAY. NO RESPECT.
BACK IN THE DAY, NO ONE WOULDA MESSED WITH YOU OR YOURS.
NO ONE WOULDA MESSED WITH *HUN*.
YEAH...
LONG TIME AGO...
YEAH. ARNOLD "*ATTILA* THE HUN." WE WERE BAD NEWS. AND NOW MY DAUGHTER'S UNDOING ALL THAT.
O-OH YEAH?
I MEAN... ON THE ONE HAND, I'M PROUD OF HER. DOING BETTER THAN HER OLD MAN, YOU KNOW?
BUT AT THE SAME TIME ÷GLP÷—
—PURPLE DRAGONS AIN'T WHAT THEY WERE.
IT'S WEIRD, YOU KNOW?
BEING SO *CONFLICTED*.
SORRY, BROOKLYN. I AIN'T THIRSTY.
TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE AND NOT TAKE THAT DRINK.
IT'S LIKE WE ALWAYS SAY IN HERE... OLD FRIENDS CAN BE THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE TO HANG OUT WITH.

"BUT YOU GOTTA WATCH OUT FOR NEW FRIENDS TOO."
YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME.
YOU...
...YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE FREAKS WHO GOT MY KID KNIFED UP!
"NOW, WITHOUT BOOZE IN ME, I'M A PRETTY REASONABLE GUY.
"BUT SOME CREEPS JUST PUSH YOUR BUTTONS."
THOK
I DIDN'T "KNIFE HIM UP." BUT YOU MAY NOT BE AS LUCKY IF YOU DON'T DO AS I SAY.
"STILL, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A JERK, I DECIDED TO HEAR HIM OUT."
...DAMN ABOMINATION...
STAY DOWN, OLD MAN. LET'S NOT PRETEND YOU HAVE ANY FIGHT LEFT IN YOU.
AND TO THINK, YOU USED TO BE *HUN*.

HUN...
HUH? WHUZZAT?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
SOMEONE WHO IS ABOUT TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR SON. SLICED THROUGH THE GUT. LIKE A FISH.
DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT—
YOUR SON.
HOW WILL YOU PROVIDE HIM WITH MEDICAL CARE? WITH WHAT MONEY? AND WHEN HE RECOVERS AND LEAVES THE HOSPITAL, WHAT THEN? THE PEOPLE WHO HARMED HIM ARE STILL OUT THERE. HOW CAN YOU PROTECT HIM?
HOW CAN *YOU* BE A *TRUE* FATHER?
BUT I DO. A LEADER MUST KNOW HIS ENEMIES. AND HIS ALLIES AS WELL.
LOOK UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR BOTTLE AND YOU'LL SEE YOUR CITY IS IN CHAOS. GANGS LIKE YOUR PURPLE DRAGONS ARE *UNFOCUSED*. THEIR LEADERSHIP, *DIVIDED*.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME.

BUT, ONCE, YOU RAN THAT GANG. YOU KEPT THEM IN LINE. I WANT YOU TO DO THAT AGAIN. RECLAIM YOUR MANHOOD. YOUR HONOR. BE AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR SON.
BECOME HUN AGAIN.
I'M NOT... I CAN'T...
I'M NOT THAT GUY ANYMORE.
NO...
...BUT YOU COULD BE.
I'LL BET THAT'S THE CRAP THAT TURNED HIM INTO THAT, AIN'T IT? I AIN'T TURNING INTO A FREAK LIKE HIM AND HIS FREAK FAMILY.
THEY'RE NOT MY FAMILY.

HIM, IT TRANSFORMED. YOU... IT WILL SIMPLY ENHANCE.
IMAGINE BEING AT YOUR PEAK ONCE AGAIN. YOUR BODY FAST AND STRONG. YOUR MIND SHARP AND UNCLOUDED. LIKE YOU WERE BEFORE. BETTER THAN BEFORE.
...
WHAT'S THE CATCH? WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR IT?
NOTHING YOU HAVEN'T BEEN YEARNING TO DO. PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER. RE-ASSUME CONTROL OF THE DRAGONS. MAKE THEM FIERCE AGAIN.
AND REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR.
YEAH. I CAN DO THAT.
"WHEN YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS AND SURRENDER TO A HIGHER POWER, THAT HIGHER POWER HAS A WAY OF REWARDING YOU.
"AND JUST LIKE THAT, I GOT A JOB!"

THIS WAS A BIG OPPORTUNITY, AND THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GONNA LET MYSELF BLOW IT. SO BEFORE I WENT BACK TO WORK I STARTED GETTING READY.
"I GOT BACK IN SHAPE.
"GOT MYSELF SPRUCED UP.
"HEY, YOU GOTTA LOOK THE PART, RIGHT?
"AND THEN, THERE IT WAS. MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB. WHO KNEW IF I STILL HAD IT IN ME?"

"MY HANDS WERE CLAMMY...
NOW'S WHEN WE MAKE OUR MOVE, ANGEL. THE SAVATE WON'T SEE US COMING!
NO. WE'RE NOT GETTING INTO A GANG WAR. THAT'S NOT WHO THE DRAGONS *ARE* ANYMORE.
"MY BROW WAS SWEATING...
WELL, LET'S PUT IT TO A VOTE.
I'M IN CHARGE HERE SO THERE *IS* NO VOTE.
THWAP
OH, I AGREE. THERE *AIN'T VOTING* IN THE PURPLE DRAGONS.
WHO THE HELL—?
BUT THAT PART ABOUT YOU BEING "IN CHARGE..."

"SEE, THIS WAS MY FIRST DAY BACK AT WORK. HAD TO LOOK LIKE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOIN'."
...I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

YOU ROB A STEROID SHOP ARNOLD?
SO I'LL BITE, OLD MAN— IF I'M NOT IN CHARGE, WHO IS?
I'VE GOT SOME IDEAS.
"CAUSE MAYBE I COULD TALK THE TALK..."
I BET YOU DO.
BOYS, I THINK OUR FRIEND ROLLED OUT OF BED AND THOUGHT IT WAS STILL TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.
GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
"BUT COULD I STILL WALK THE WALK?
"WELL, LEMME TELL YOU GUYS..."

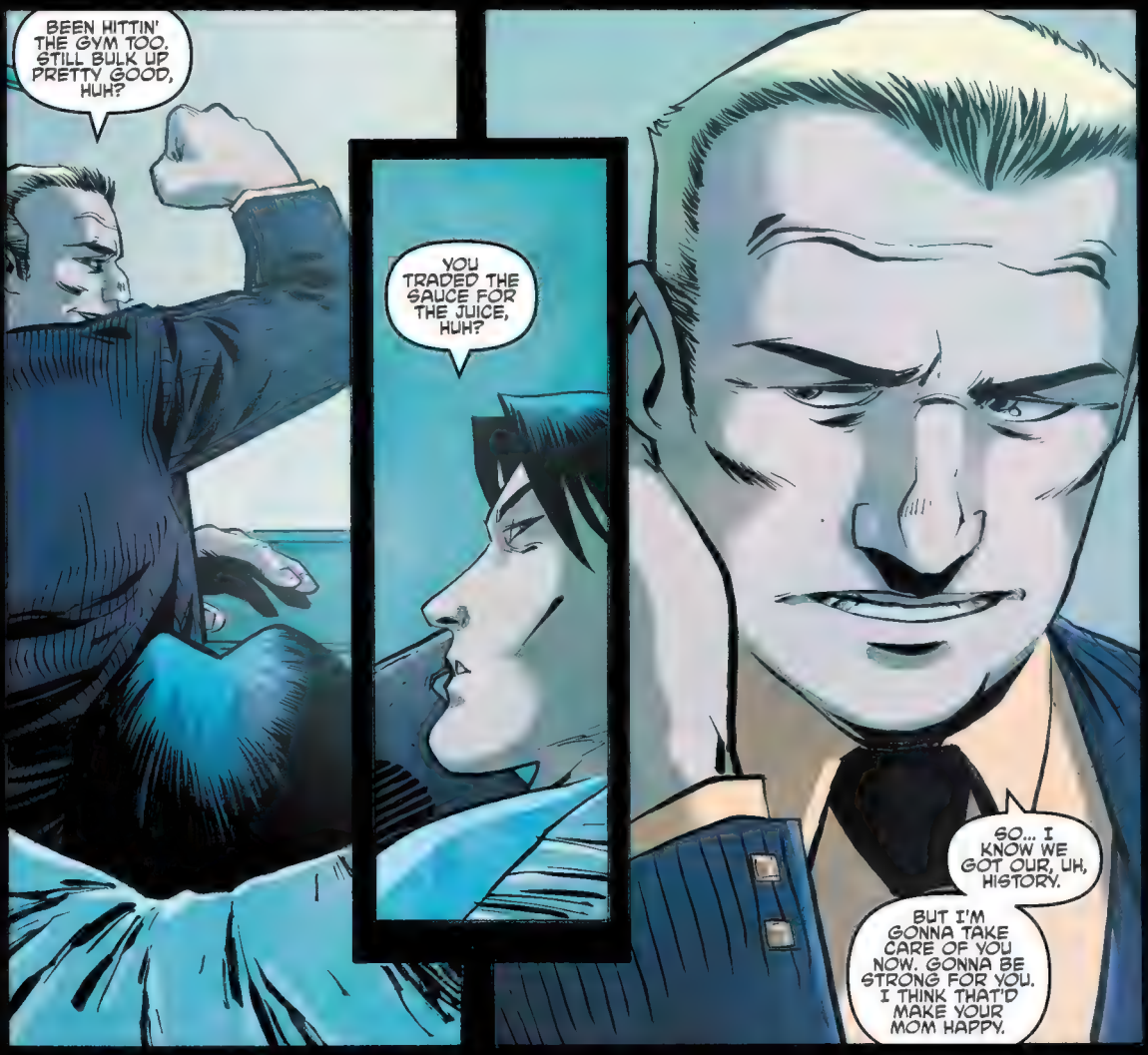
"...TURNS OUT I COULD WALK JUST FINE."

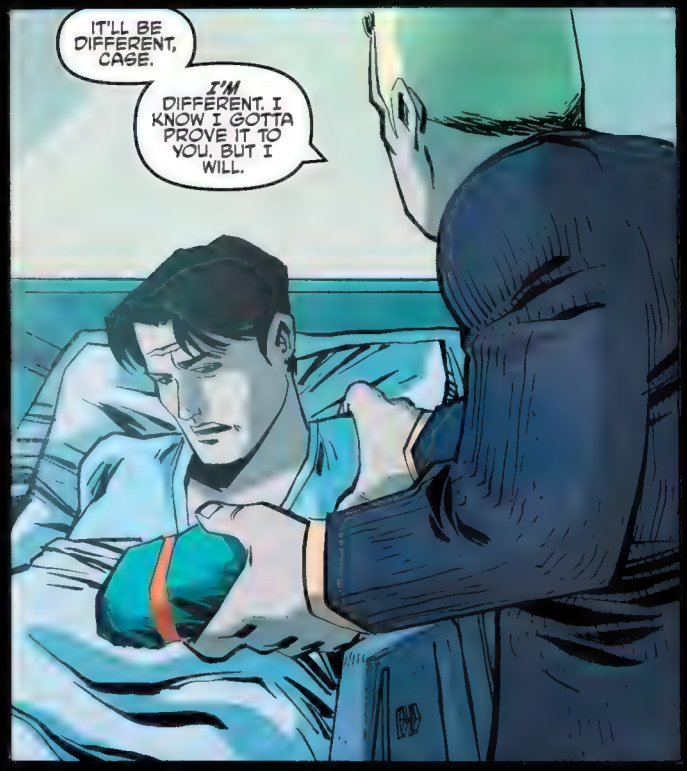
NOW.
YOUR OLD MAN AND I GO BACK *A LONG WAYS*, AND YOU'RE CASEY'S FRIEND. BETTER THAT THEY DON'T HEAR ABOUT THIS... "DISAGREEMENT."
YOU SIGN OFF ON THIS, OR I TWIST YOUR HEAD OFF YOUR SHOULDERS. GOT ME?
YEAH. I GOT YOU.
GOOD GIRL. NOW AS FOR THE REST OF YOU...

...YOU GUYS FIGURE OUT WHO YOUR LEADER IS YET?

I'M TELLIN' YOU GUYS, IT WAS AMAZING.
MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB, AND ALREADY I WAS IN A MANAGEMENT POSITION.
"DOORS WERE OPENING FOR ME.
"TURNS OUT, MY JOB BROUGHT ME BACK IN TOUCH WITH SOME OLD COLLEAGUES.
"AND, JUST LIKE IT SAYS IN STEP EIGHT, I MADE AMENDS.
"MY BOSS WAS THRILLED WITH ME.
"FELT GREAT TO HAVE A PURPOSE AGAIN."

"AND THAT GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO SEE MY BOY..."
HOW YA DOIN, CASE?
...BEEN IN TOO MANY HOSPITAL ROOMS, HAVEN'T WE?
...YEAH. WE HAVE.
SO, HEY, LISTEN. I WANTED YOU TO KNOW...
I QUIT DRINKING. AND I GOT A JOB.


BEEN HITTIN' THE GYM TOO. STILL BULK UP PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
YOU TRADED THE SAUCE FOR THE JUICE, HUH?
SO... I KNOW WE GOT OUR, UH, HISTORY.
BUT I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF YOU NOW. GONNA BE STRONG FOR YOU. I THINK THAT'D MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY.


IT'LL BE DIFFERENT, CASE.
I'M DIFFERENT. I KNOW I GOTTA PROVE IT TO YOU, BUT I WILL.

ANYWAY...
I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK. WHEN YOU'RE UP ON YOUR FEET AGAIN, WE CAN TALK ABOUT YOU MAYBE COMIN' ON BOARD WITH ME.
NO STOPPIN' THE JONES BOYS, RIGHT?

"ME AND MY KID, WE GOT OUR WAYS TO GO. BUT I THINK WE'RE GONNA GET THERE.
"I AIN'T SAYING I DON'T THINK ABOUT HAVING A DRINK NOW AND THEN...
"BUT THEN I THINK ABOUT MY JOB, AND HOW GOOD I AM AT IT. AND, WHAT'S MORE, I *LOVE* IT.
"AND I THINK ABOUT MY *BOY*. ABOUT BEIN' A GOOD DAD TO HIM, AND I THINK, 'HELL...'"

"... MAYBE I'LL HAVE A SODA INSTEAD."

SO THIS IS MY ONE-MONTH CHIP. AND I'M PROUD TO HAVE IT.

ONE DAY AT A TIME.
THE END.

ART BY MIKE HENDERSON

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

ISSUE #25

NEW YORK CITY.
QUICKLY! THE MASTER WANTS THIS SHIPMENT DELIVERED TONIGHT.
TWIP
TWIP
TWIP
TWIP
WHO—?
HRK!
SAVATE!
CITY FALL
PART FOUR

FWIP
FWIP
SHAK
GLK!
TUEZ-LE-GNF!
FWAK
FOOT, THEY MUST NOT PASS!
WE ARE TOO OUTNUMBERED!
NOT FOR LONG!
SHAP
BOLD TALK!
WHOP
UFF!

BUT YOUR COMRADE WAS RIGHT— OUR GREATER NUMBERS ASSURE OUR VICTORY, LITTLE GIRL.
"LITTLE GIRL"? YOU WILL REGRET THOSE WORDS EVER LEFT YOUR MOUTH.
WILL I?
YES...
...YOU WILL.
OH.
DESTROY THEM.

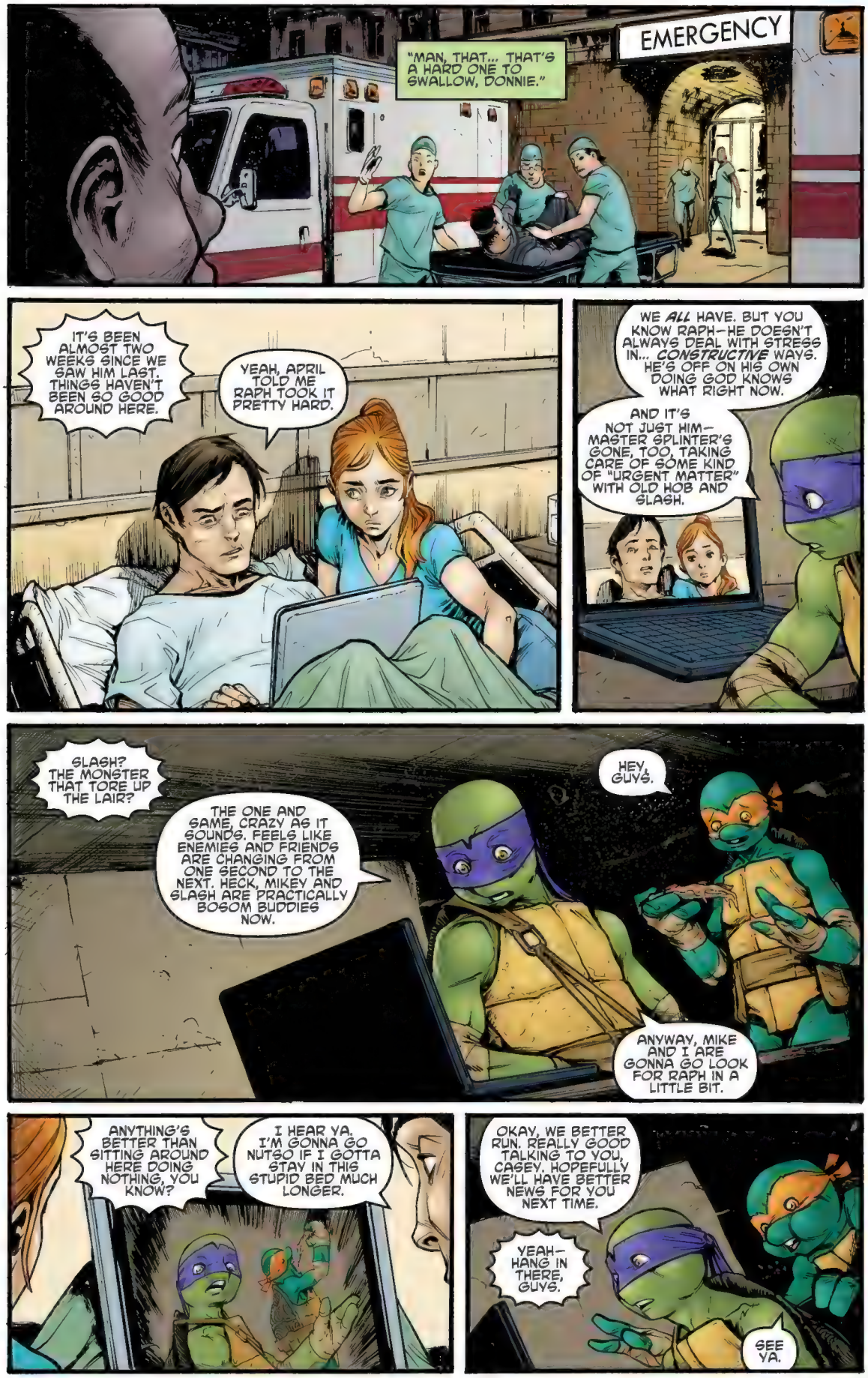
NOT SO SMUG NOW, HM, FRENCH MAN?
KLANG
ERF!

DID A "LITTLE GIRL" STEAL YOUR PRECIOUS VICTORY?
STOP!

BUT—
NO, KARAI—WE NEED HIM ALIVE TO DELIVER MASTER SHREDDER'S MESSAGE.

PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION.
THE FOOT WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE DISOBEDIENCE—NOT FROM YOU SAVATE OR ANYONE ELSE IN THIS CITY. TONIGHT'S JUST A SMALL TASTE OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU IGNORE WHAT I'M SAYING.
RUN AND TELL YOUR LEADERS THIS IS THEIR LAST WARNING. EITHER OBEY MASTER SHREDDER...
...OR FACE ALL-OUT WAR.

"SO, LEO'S REALLY PART OF THE FOOT NOW?"


EMERGENCY
"MAN, THAT... THAT'S A HARD ONE TO SWALLOW, DONNIE."
IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWO WEEKS SINCE WE SAW HIM LAST. THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN SO GOOD AROUND HERE.
YEAH, APRIL TOLD ME RAPH TOOK IT PRETTY HARD.
WE ALL HAVE. BUT YOU KNOW RAPH—HE DOESN'T ALWAYS DEAL WITH STRESS IN... CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS. HE'S OFF ON HIS OWN DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT RIGHT NOW.
AND IT'S NOT JUST HIM—MASTER SPLINTER'S GONE, TOO, TAKING CARE OF SOME KIND OF "URGENT MATTER" WITH OLD HOB AND SLASH.
SLASH? THE MONSTER THAT TORE UP THE LAIR?
THE ONE AND SAME, CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS. FEELS LIKE ENEMIES AND FRIENDS ARE CHANGING FROM ONE SECOND TO THE NEXT. HECK, MIKEY AND SLASH ARE PRACTICALLY BOSOM BUDDIES NOW.
HEY, GUYS.
ANYWAY, MIKE AND I ARE GONNA GO LOOK FOR RAPH IN A LITTLE BIT.
ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND HERE DOING NOTHING, YOU KNOW?
I HEAR YA. I'M GONNA GO NUTSO IF I GOTTA STAY IN THIS STUPID BED MUCH LONGER.
OKAY, WE BETTER RUN. REALLY GOOD TALKING TO YOU, CASEY. HOPEFULLY WE'LL HAVE BETTER NEWS FOR YOU NEXT TIME.
YEAH—HANG IN THERE, GUYS.
SEE YA.

MAN, APRIL, I HATE THIS. I SHOULD BE OUT THERE HELPIN' THEM LOOK FOR RAPH.
NO, YOU SHOULD BE *HERE*, CASEY.
IT'S TOO SOON—YOU'D ONLY HURT YOURSELF WORSE AND THEN YOU'D BE NO HELP TO ANYONE.
I KNOW. IT JUST STINKS BEIN' STUCK HERE WHILE THE GUYS ARE WORRYIN' 'BOUT LEO BEIN' GONE FOR GOOD.
I KNOW—I WANT LEO BACK JUST AS BADLY AS ANYONE. AND I KNOW THE PAIN THE GUYS ARE GOING THROUGH IS AWFUL RIGHT NOW...
...BECAUSE I WENT THROUGH THE EXACT *SAME* THING WITH YOU.
ME?
YES, YOU. WHEN SHREDDER STABBED YOU, I THOUGHT...
...I THOUGHT I'D *LOST* YOU FOREVER.
NAH... I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE, APRIL.
YOU BETTER NOT, CASEY JONES.

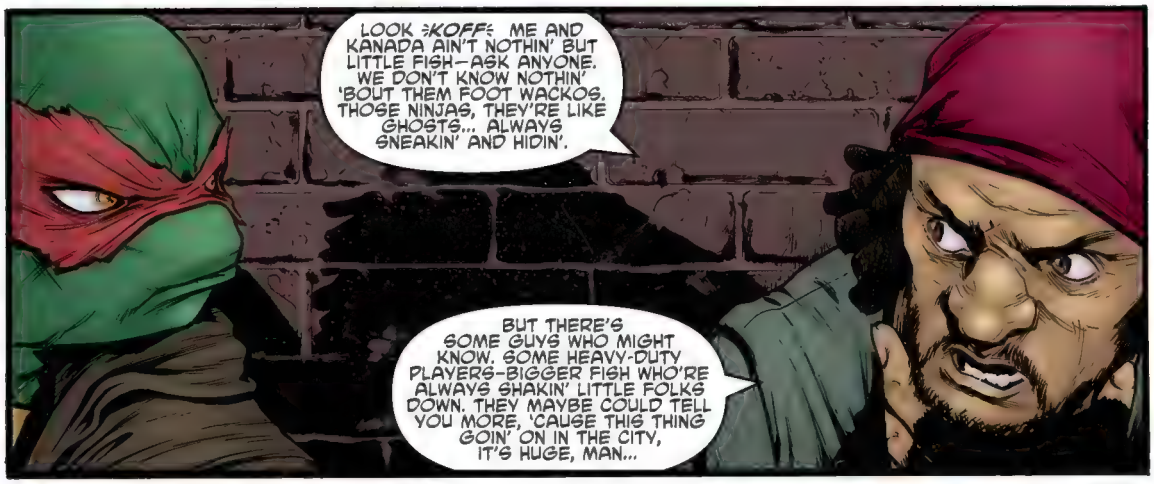
SMACK
THAT WAS JUST A LOVE TAP, CHUMP...
...I AIN'T GONNA BE SO NICE NEXT TIME IF YOU DON'T START SPILLIN' REAL QUICK.
SPILLIN'?! WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT?
GAH- I THINK YOU BROKE MY TOOTH.
I'M TALKIN' ABOUT THE FOOT!
THE FOOT? I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT THOSE CRAZIES!
DON'T PLAY STUPID WITH ME. I KNO-
GRAAH!
WHUMP
DAMMIT!
GUFF!
KYAT
I DON'T GOT TIME FOR THIS CRAP!

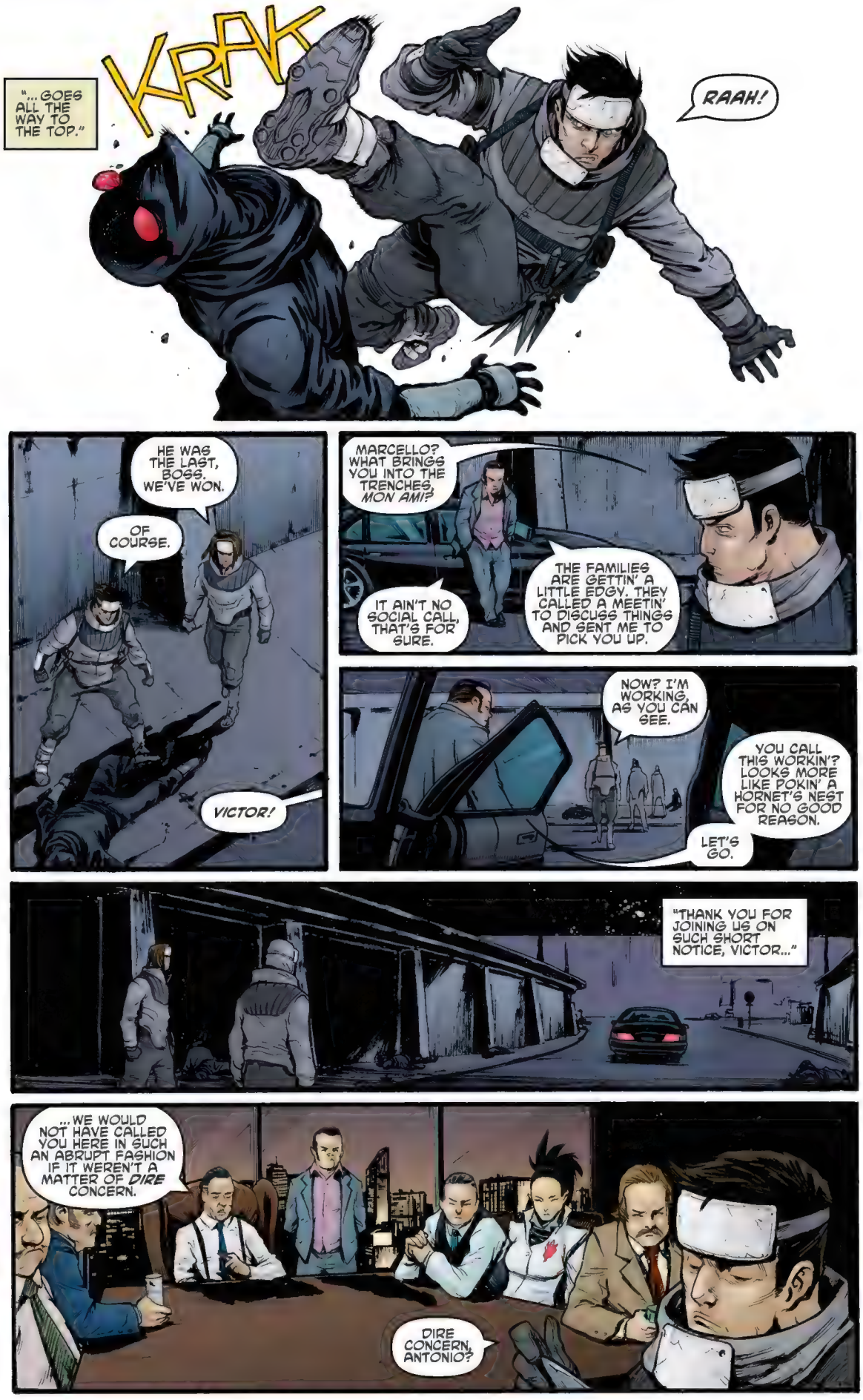
MUTANT FREAK!
THUK

DIDN'T I JUST WARN YOU 'BOUT BEIN' STUPID?
I... GRK... YEAH, YOU... HLRK... DID. SORRY...
SAVE YOUR APOLOGIES AND LISTEN UP.

I REMEMBER YOU AND DUMBO OVER THERE FROM THAT BRIEFCASE THING WITH THE FOOT AND SAVATE.*
YOU WERE KNEE DEEP IN THAT MESS AND SOMETHIN' TELLS ME YOU'RE MIXED UP IN THE CRAP GOIN' ON 'ROUND THE CITY RIGHT NOW, TOO.
N-NO... URF... MAN, YOU'RE WRONG... HUK... WE AIN'T—
*See TMNT Annual #1 – B.C.

SHUT UP. I AIN'T DONE.
THE FOOT NEARLY WAXED MY BEST FRIEND AND STOLE MY BROTHER. I'M GONNA GET HIM BACK, BUT I GOTTA FIND WHERE THOSE JACKASSES ARE KEEPIN' HIM FIRST. SO, LIKE I SAID, TIME FOR YOU TO START SPILLIN' WHAT YOU KNOW OR I START SPILLIN' MORE BLOOD.
GOT ME?
MM-HM.


LOOK =KOFF= ME AND KANADA AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT LITTLE FISH—ASK ANYONE. WE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT THEM FOOT WACKOS, THOSE NINJAS, THEY'RE LIKE GHOSTS... ALWAYS SNEAKIN' AND HIDIN'.
BUT THERE'S SOME GUYS WHO MIGHT KNOW. SOME HEAVY-DUTY PLAYERS-BIGGER FISH WHO'RE ALWAYS SHAKIN' LITTLE FOLKS DOWN. THEY MAYBE COULD TELL YOU MORE, 'CAUSE THIS THING GOIN' ON IN THE CITY, IT'S HUGE, MAN...

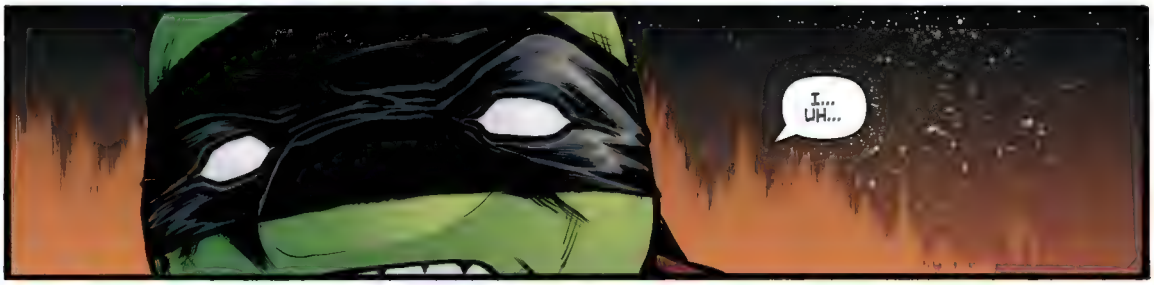

"... GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP."
KRAK
RAAH!
HE WAS THE LAST, BOSS. WE'VE WON.
OF COURSE.
VICTOR!
MARCELLO? WHAT BRINGS YOU INTO THE TRENCHES, MON AMI?
IT AIN'T NO SOCIAL CALL, THAT'S FOR SURE.
THE FAMILIES ARE GETTIN' A LITTLE EDGY. THEY CALLED A MEETIN' TO DISCUSS THINGS AND SENT ME TO PICK YOU UP.
NOW? I'M WORKING, AS YOU CAN SEE.
YOU CALL THIS WORKIN'? LOOKS MORE LIKE POKIN' A HORNET'S NEST FOR NO GOOD REASON.
LET'S GO.
"THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, VICTOR..."
... WE WOULD NOT HAVE CALLED YOU HERE IN SUCH AN ABRUPT FASHION IF IT WEREN'T A MATTER OF DIRE CONCERN.
DIRE CONCERN, ANTONIO?

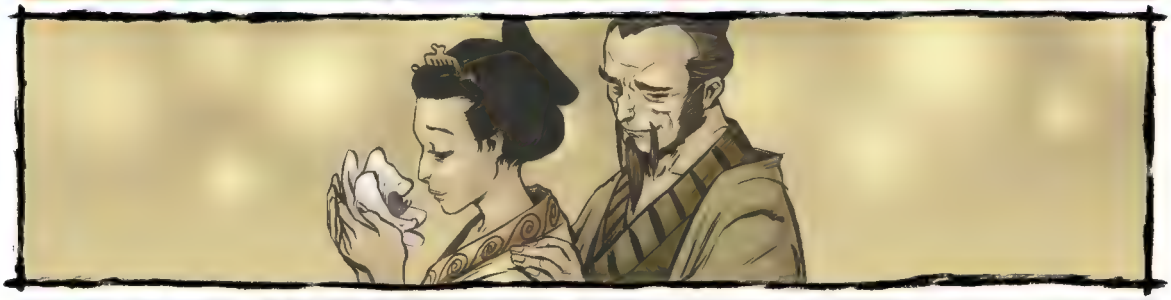
YES. WHEN YOU TOOK CONTROL OF THE SAVATE, YOU INFORMED US YOU WOULD BE MAKING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION, BUT WE NEVER EXPECTED THEY WOULD BE FOR THE WORSE.
THE POLICE ARE NOT OUR WORRY—WE'VE DEALT EFFECTIVELY WITH THEM FOR AS LONG AS THE FAMILIES HAVE OPERATED IN THIS CITY.
LOOK, IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COPS, ANTONIO, DON'T BE. THEY KNOW TO STAY OUT OF THIS.
NO, WHAT CONCERNS US IS YOUR OVERLY AGGRESSIVE METHODS, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THE FOOT.
QUITE FRANKLY, WE NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO CROSS THE LINES YOU HAVE, STARTING A WAR THAT NEED NOT BE STARTED.
YEAH, YOUR OLD BOSS FABRICE WOULDA FOUND A WAY TO DEAL WITH SHREDDER LIKE A REAL BUSINESSMAN—NOT SOME KUNG-FU-KICKIN' GOON!
YES, WELL...
...I AM NOT FABRICE. AND BUSINESS AS USUAL IS NO MORE.
THE TIME HAS COME TO DECIDE, MY FRIENDS— ARE WE PREDATORS...
GRGK!
SHK

"...OR ARE WE PREY?"
SCREE
EXCELLENT, KOVA!
TO ME!
I WOULD HAVE YOUR REPORT NOW, CHUNIN.
YES, MASTER SHREDDER.
WE SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGED THE SAVATE NINJA USING A SURPRISE COUNTER-ATTACK AS PLANNED—
—AND I'VE DELIVERED YOUR ULTIMATUM TO THEM, MASTER.
YES, ABOUT THAT...
...I MUST VOICE MY DISPLEASURE WITH OUR RECENT MISSION.
I BELIEVE I SERVE A HIGHER PURPOSE TO OUR CLAN AND OUR CAMPAIGN THAN ACTING AS SIMPLE BAIT, GRANDFATHER.
WHY DO YOU SPEAK TO ME OF THIS, KARAI? IT WAS MY CHUNIN WHO MADE THE DECISION TO UTILIZE YOU IN SUCH A MANNER.

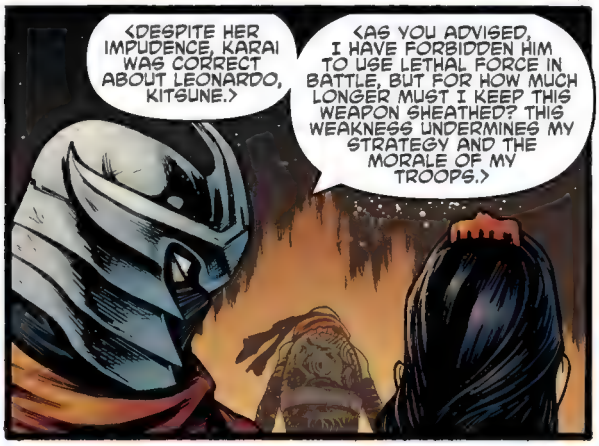
YOU?!
YES. IT MADE TACTICAL SENSE USING YOU TO LURE OUT THE SAVATE.
I KNEW ONCE THEY SAW A FEMALE IN CHARGE OF THE SHIPMENT THEY'D GET COCKY AND STUPID. AND I WAS RIGHT.
NO... YOU ARE NOT RIGHT.
I WILL NOT BE TREATED AS A COMMON FOOT SOLDIER, MASTER SHREDDER!
YOU WILL BE WHATEVER I DECIDE BEST SERVES THE FOOT CLAN, KARAI.
AND WHAT OF YOUR CHOSEN SECOND-IN-COMMAND, MASTER? DOES HE, TOO, BEST SERVE THE FOOT?
HE, WHO IS UNWILLING—OR UNABLE—TO DIRTY HIS OWN BLADES WITH THE ENEMY'S BLOOD? DOES HE—
SILENCE!
AS YOU WISH... GRANDFATHER.
I SHOULD DO SOME TRAINING, MASTER. MAY I ALSO...
...GO?

YES. YOU ARE DISMISSED, CHUNIN.


I... UH...



I SAID YOU MAY GO, LEONARDO.
Y-YES... MASTER. THANK YOU.

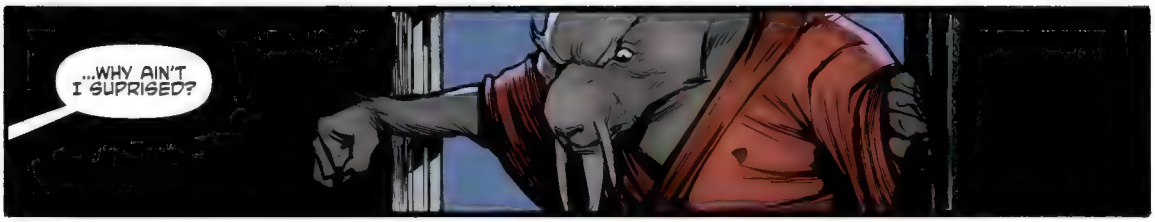

<DESPITE HER IMPUDENCE, KARAI WAS CORRECT ABOUT LEONARDO, KITSUNE.>
<AS YOU ADVISED, I HAVE FORBIDDEN HIM TO USE LETHAL FORCE IN BATTLE, BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I KEEP THIS WEAPON SHEATHED? THIS WEAKNESS UNDERMINES MY STRATEGY AND THE MORALE OF MY TROOPS.>

<A TRUE CHUNIN MUST BE ABLE TO KILL IF HE IS TO HAVE THE RESPECT OF THOSE HE LEADS.>
<I UNDERSTAND, SAKI, BUT FOR NOW YOUR PATIENCE IN THIS MATTER IS YET REQUIRED.>
<THOUGH LEONARDO IS UNDER MY CONTROL, HIS CONNECTION TO HIS PAST LIFE REMAINS STRONG.>

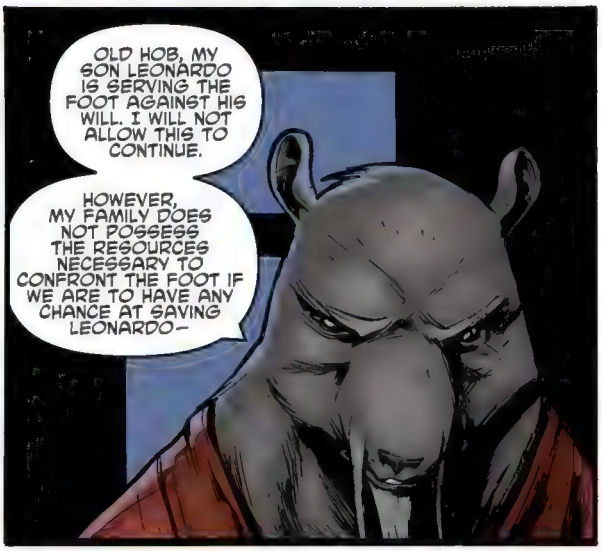
<SO LONG AS HIS FAMILY LIVES, THEY POSE A THREAT TO OUR WORK.>
<YES—AN UNFORTUNATE SITUATION THAT *WILL* BE RECTIFIED IN TIME, I ASSURE YOU.>
<AND *TIME* IS WHAT I NEED, MY LORD—MORE TIME TO FULLY BREAK HAMATO YOSHI'S INFLUENCE AND TRANSFORM LEONARDO INTO THE FORMIDABLE *CHUNIN* YOU DESIRE.>
PLEASE FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, MASTER SHREDDER...
...BUT AN URGENT DELIVERY HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU FROM VICTOR OF THE SAVATE.
AND YOU HAVE INSPECTED THIS PACKAGE, YES?
I HAVE, MASTER. IT... IT IS SAFE, BUT—
LEAVE US.
YES, MASTER.
<SO... OUR FOE HAS MADE HIS DECISION. IT APPEARS, KITSUNE...>
<...THAT YOUR TIME IS RUNNING OUT.>
WAR

"YOU KNOW, IT AIN'T RIGHT, APRIL..."
...A GOOD GUY LIKE CASEY DON'T DESERVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS, BUT THAT LOSER DAD OF HIS SURE AS HELL DOES.
NO MORE.
NO MORE!
KSHH
NO MORE.

"BACK FOR MORE, RAT..."


...WHY AIN'T I SUPRISED?

SO... WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR?
TNT


OLD HOB, MY SON LEONARDO IS SERVING THE FOOT AGAINST HIS WILL. I WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.
HOWEVER, MY FAMILY DOES NOT POSSESS THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO CONFRONT THE FOOT IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT SAVING LEONARDO—

—RESOURCES, PERHAPS, THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE.
HEH. I KNEW YOU HAD SMARTS ENOUGH TO FIGURE A MUTANT ARMY WAS A GOOD IDEA.

I GOTTA ASK YOU, THOUGH—WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOUR LOST PUP AIN'T WITH THE FOOT ON PURPOSE? COULD BE HE *LIKES* WORKIN' FOR SHREDDER.

NO, YOU ARE *WRONG!* MY SON IS AN HONORABLE WARRIOR AND WOULD *NEVER* JOIN FORCES WITH EVIL OF HIS OWN VOLITION!
NEVER!
OKAY, OKAY... JUST ASKIN' IS ALL. COOL YER JETS.

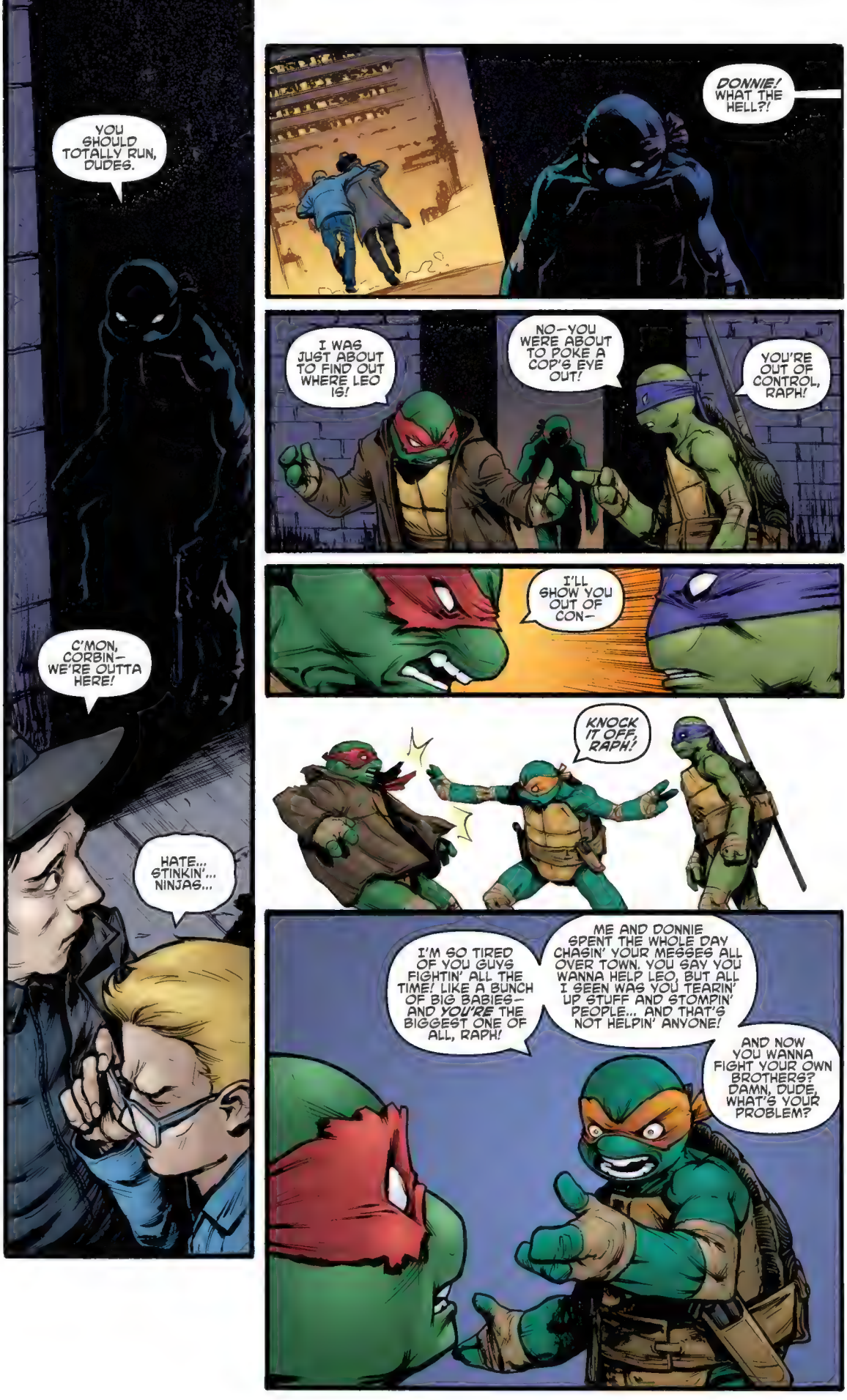
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, OLD HOB, MY PRIORITY IS TO SEE MY SON OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
FOR THIS REASON, I AM WILLING TO EARNESTLY CONSIDER YOUR OFFER TO JOIN YOU—BUT *ONLY* IF YOU FIRST AGREE TO ASSIST ME IN LEONARDO'S RESCUE.

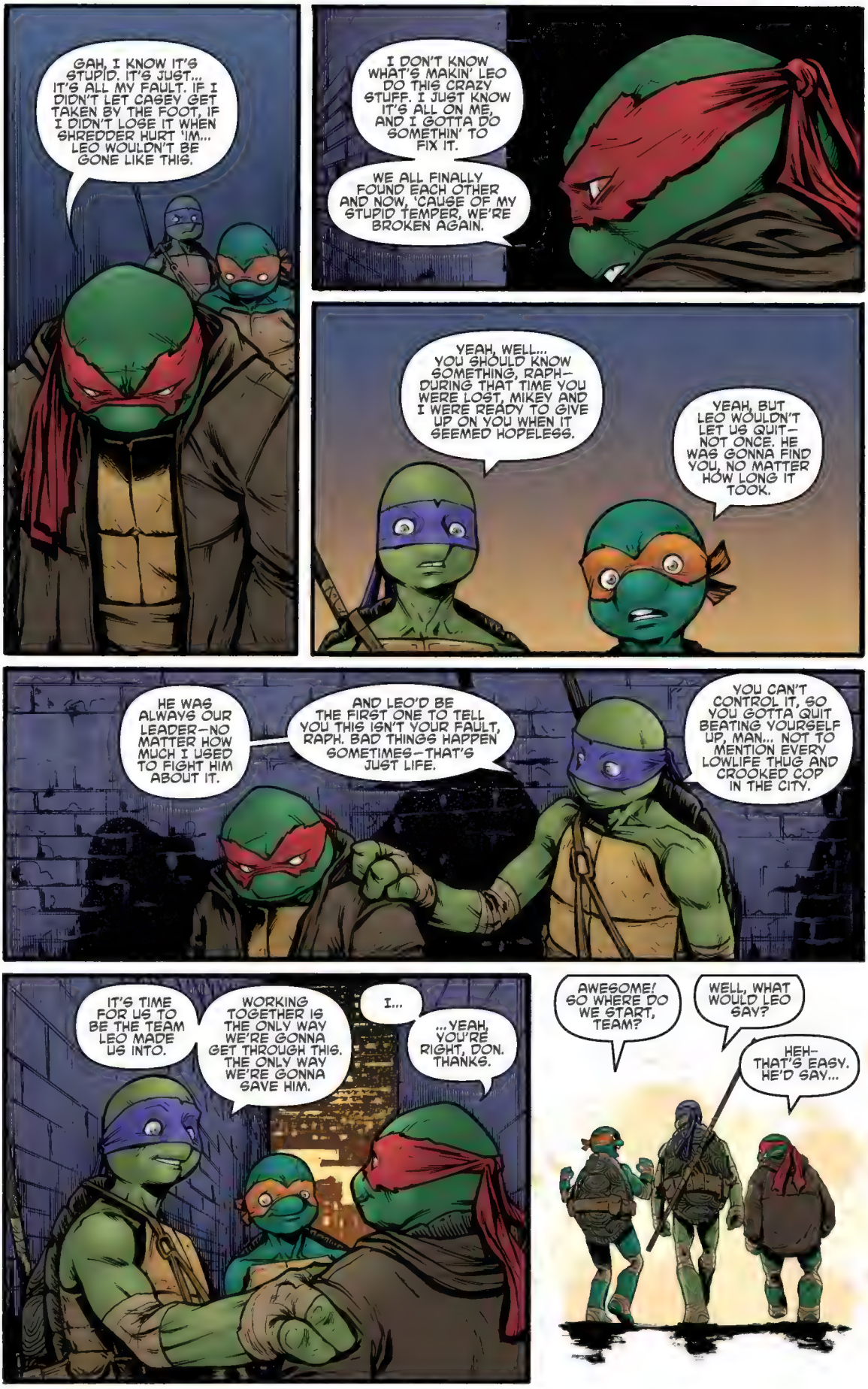
WITHOUT THE SAFE RETURN OF MY SON, THERE CAN BE *NO* DEAL BETWEEN US.
FAIR ENOUGH—BUT I AIN'T ONE FOR HANDSHAKE AGREEMENTS. I'M GONNA NEED PROOF YOU'RE SERIOUS.

I NEED A LITTLE JOB DONE—PERFECT GIG FOR YOU. WE'LL JUST CALL IT A GOOD-FAITH KINDA THING—
—DO IT FOR ME AND THEN WE'LL START WORKIN' ON GETTIN' YOUR KID BACK.
I AM LISTENING.
YEAH? WELL, LISTEN REAL GOOD...

...'CAUSE YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH THE *BIG GUNS* NOW.

LOOK, MILLER, WE BOTH KNOW NOTHIN' GOOD COMES FROM DEALIN' WITH THESE DAMN NINJAS—LET ALONE DOUBLE DEALIN'.
HEY, IT AIN'T LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY COPS WORKIN' WITH 'EM. WAY I SEE IT, IF THE FOOT AND THE SAVATE BOTH WANNA GREASE US TO STAY OUTTA THEIR LITTLE STREET RUCKUS...
...FAR BE IT FROM ME TO TALK 'EM OUTTA SHARIN' THEIR LOOT.
I DUNNO, THOSE NINJAS ARE SNEAKY BAS—GRK!
KRAK
WHO THE—?! ARE YOU CRAZY, MAN? WE'RE COPS.
YEAH—I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU CROOKED SCUMBAGS. REAL BIG FISH.
BIG FISH? WHAT ARE—
SHUT UP. YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME WHERE THE FOOT ARE HIDIN' OR, UNLIKE YOUR PAL, YOU'RE GONNA GET THE BUSINESS END OF MY SAI...
...UNDERSTOOD?
CRAP.
UFF!
WHUMP


YOU SHOULD TOTALLY RUN, DUDES.
C'MON, CORBIN— WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
HATE... STINKIN'... NINJAS...
DONNIE! WHAT THE HELL?!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHERE LEO IS!
NO—YOU WERE ABOUT TO POKE A COP'S EYE OUT!
YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL, RAPH!
I'LL SHOW YOU OUT OF CON—
KNOCK IT OFF, RAPH!
I'M SO TIRED OF YOU GUYS FIGHTIN' ALL THE TIME! LIKE A BUNCH OF BIG BABIES— AND YOU'RE THE BIGGEST ONE OF ALL, RAPH!
ME AND DONNIE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY CHASIN' YOUR MESSES ALL OVER TOWN. YOU SAY YOU WANNA HELP LEO, BUT ALL I SEEN WAS YOU TEARIN' UP STUFF AND STOMPIN' PEOPLE... AND THAT'S NOT HELPIN' ANYONE!
AND NOW YOU WANNA FIGHT YOUR OWN BROTHERS? DAMN, DUDE, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?


GAH, I KNOW IT'S STUPID. IT'S JUST... IT'S ALL MY FAULT. IF I DIDN'T LET CASEY GET TAKEN BY THE FOOT, IF I DIDN'T LOSE IT WHEN SHREDDER HURT 'IM... LEO WOULDN'T BE GONE LIKE THIS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MAKIN' LEO DO THIS CRAZY STUFF. I JUST KNOW IT'S ALL ON ME, AND I GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' TO FIX IT.
WE ALL FINALLY FOUND EACH OTHER AND NOW, 'CAUSE OF MY STUPID TEMPER, WE'RE BROKEN AGAIN.
YEAH, WELL... YOU SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING, RAPH— DURING THAT TIME YOU WERE LOST, MIKEY AND I WERE READY TO GIVE UP ON YOU WHEN IT SEEMED HOPELESS.
YEAH, BUT LEO WOULDN'T LET US QUIT— NOT ONCE. HE WAS GONNA FIND YOU, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TOOK.
HE WAS ALWAYS OUR LEADER—NO MATTER HOW MUCH I USED TO FIGHT HIM ABOUT IT.
AND LEO'D BE THE FIRST ONE TO TELL YOU THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT, RAPH. BAD THINGS HAPPEN SOMETIMES—THAT'S JUST LIFE.
YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT, SO YOU GOTTA QUIT BEATING YOURSELF UP, MAN... NOT TO MENTION EVERY LOWLIFE THUG AND CROOKED COP IN THE CITY.
IT'S TIME FOR US TO BE THE TEAM LEO MADE US INTO.
WORKING TOGETHER IS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GONNA GET THROUGH THIS. THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GONNA SAVE HIM.
I...
...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, DON. THANKS.
AWESOME! SO WHERE DO WE START, TEAM?
WELL, WHAT WOULD LEO SAY?
HEH— THAT'S EASY. HE'D SAY...

"...WE NEED A PLAN."
"MY *CHUNIN* AND I WILL LEAD THE ATTACK AGAINST THE SAVATE HEADQUARTERS..."
...STRIKING AT THE HEART OF THEIR COMMAND CENTER UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, CRUSHING THE ENEMY WHERE THEY LIVE.
KARAI AND ALOPEX WILL FOLLOW IN THE SECONDARY STRIKE UNIT, ACTING AS CLEAN-UP FOR ANY ENEMY COMBATANTS THE VANGUARD LEAVES BEHIND.
COME, LEONARDO.
THIS IS ALL WRONG.
WHAT IS, ALOPEX?
DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU, BEING PUT ON THE SECOND-STRING LIKE THIS, KARAI?
I MEAN, AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR THE FOOT TO HAVE TO STEP ASIDE FOR THAT... THAT REPTILE?
ALOPEX, IT IS NEVER WISE TO OVERESTIMATE ONE'S IMPORTANCE. WE ALL SERVE THE FOOT, REGARDLESS OF RANK, AND SHOULD NEVER THINK WE ARE IRREPLACEABLE.
BUT THE WISE WARRIOR ALWAYS HAS AN ALTERNATE PLAN PREPARED...

"...JUST IN CASE."
ROCK N' ROLL!

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

art by TYLER WALPOLE

BEBOP & ROCKSTEADY

PUNCH!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO— UGH!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
YOU'RE OUT OF THE GANG!
NOW STAY DOWN!
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY. I'M LETTIN' YOU OFF EASY.
OH, AND JUST A SUGGESTION... TRY LOSING THOSE STUPID "GANG" NAMES.
THEY'RE MUSIC STYLES! DON'T ANYBODY CARE ABOUT MUSIC?
HE ONLY LISTENS TO TOP 40, BEBOP. HE AIN'T TAKING US BACK.
GREAT, THIS IS *JUST* GREAT! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?!
HEAD HOME, I GUESS.

WE GOT NOTHING!
NO GANG, NO POWER, WE AIN'T EVEN GOT NO FREAKIN' FOOD!
HEY, IT'S COOL. WHADDYA SAY WE GO SCORE SOME CASH? WE'LL STICK UP SOME CHUMP, OR JACK THAT CASH MACHINE LIKE WE WAS TALKING A—
BASH
NO! I'M SICK OF THIS!
WE GOTTA FIND SOME WAY OF GETTING OUT OF THIS HOLE WE'RE IN. WE CAN'T SCREW UP NO MORE.
WE'LL FIND ANOTHER GANG, AND WHEN WE DO, WE'LL DO BETTER. WE'LL BE SMART. FROM NOW ON, IT'S A NEW ROCKSTEADY AND BEBOP...
...ME AND A GROUP OF GUYS WORK FOR A GUY WHO WORKS FOR ANOTHER GUY—
—WHO WORKS FOR THE FOOT CLAN. EVER HEAR OF IT? COURSE YOU HAVEN'T, CUZ WE'RE THE BEST, MAN. TOTALLY STEALTH, BUT WE'RE TAKING OVER EVERYTHING.
AND THE GUY RUNNING THE WHOLE THING, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM, NOBODY HAS, BUT I HEAR HE'S LIKE A SUPER BAD DUDE.
YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD OF HIM. HE'S CALLED THE SHREDDER.
MAN, IF YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR WORK, ON THE NEXT JOB, I'LL BRING YOU ALONG...
"I'M LOOKING FOR ONLY THE BRAVEST AND STRONGEST AMONG YOU—"

—VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS "SPECIAL UNIT" WILL BE TAKING A QUANTUM LEAP IN STATUS. IF YOU ARE CONTENT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOT CLAN, CONTENT WITH BEING INFERIOR, THEN CONTINUE TO WASTE YOUR LIFE. BUT IF YOU WANT MORE FOR YOURSELF...
...THEN JOIN ME. THOSE WHO PROVE THEMSELVES WORTHY WILL ONE DAY BECOME THE ULTIMATE FOOT SOLDIERS...
...I OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO BECOME MUTANTS!
WE WANNA GO BIGGER. WE WANT THE NEXT FIGHT TO BE FREAK AGAINST FREAK.
YEAH, WHEN DO WE GET TO CHANGE ALREADY?
"I NEED ONLY TWO OF YOU.
"AND SO, WE WILL CONDUCT ONE FINAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHO WILL MOVE FORWARD.
"LAST ONES STANDING STAY."
WE DID IT, ROCKSTEADY. YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?
I WANNA BE A DINOSAUR! WONDER IF THEY GOT THAT.
HEH HEH, OH YEAH. NICE CHOMPERS.
RHINO-SAURUS! NICE!
REINDEER
RHINOCEROS

"YOUR MEANINGLESS LIVES END TODAY...

ROCK AND ROLL!

"AND YOU WILL BE REBORN, AS THE *MUTANTS*...

BEBOP & ROCKSTEADY

YOUR TWO WEEKS OF TRAINING ARE COMPLETE. YOU ARE READY.

READY TO MEET SHREDDER?

NOT YET. TONIGHT YOU WILL COME WITH ME ON A JOB FOR A LITTLE FIELD TEST. IT'S TIME WE TRY YOU IN AN UNCONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.

AS HUMANS YOU SERVED THE FOOT WELL ENOUGH, BUT THE STAKES ARE HIGHER NOW.

I'LL BE MEETING WITH *XIANG FEI TONG*, THE BOSS OF THE *GHOST BOYS*, A TRIAD GANG IN CHINATOWN.
YOU TWO ARE THERE TO ACCOMPANY ME. YOUR PRESENCE WILL MAKE APPARENT THE MIGHT OF THE FOOT CLAN.

"THE MIGHT OF THE FOOT CLAN." I LIKE THAT.
THIS "XIANG" GUY, YOU WANT WE SHOULD ROUGH HIM UP A LITTLE? LET HIM KNOW WHO'S BOSS AROUND HERE?

YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING! THE SHREDDER HAS OTHER PLANS FOR XIANG AND THE GHOST BOYS. YOU'RE EXPECTED TO ONLY STAND THERE.
NOT EVERY JOB IS ONE OF VIOLENCE... THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THAT LATER.

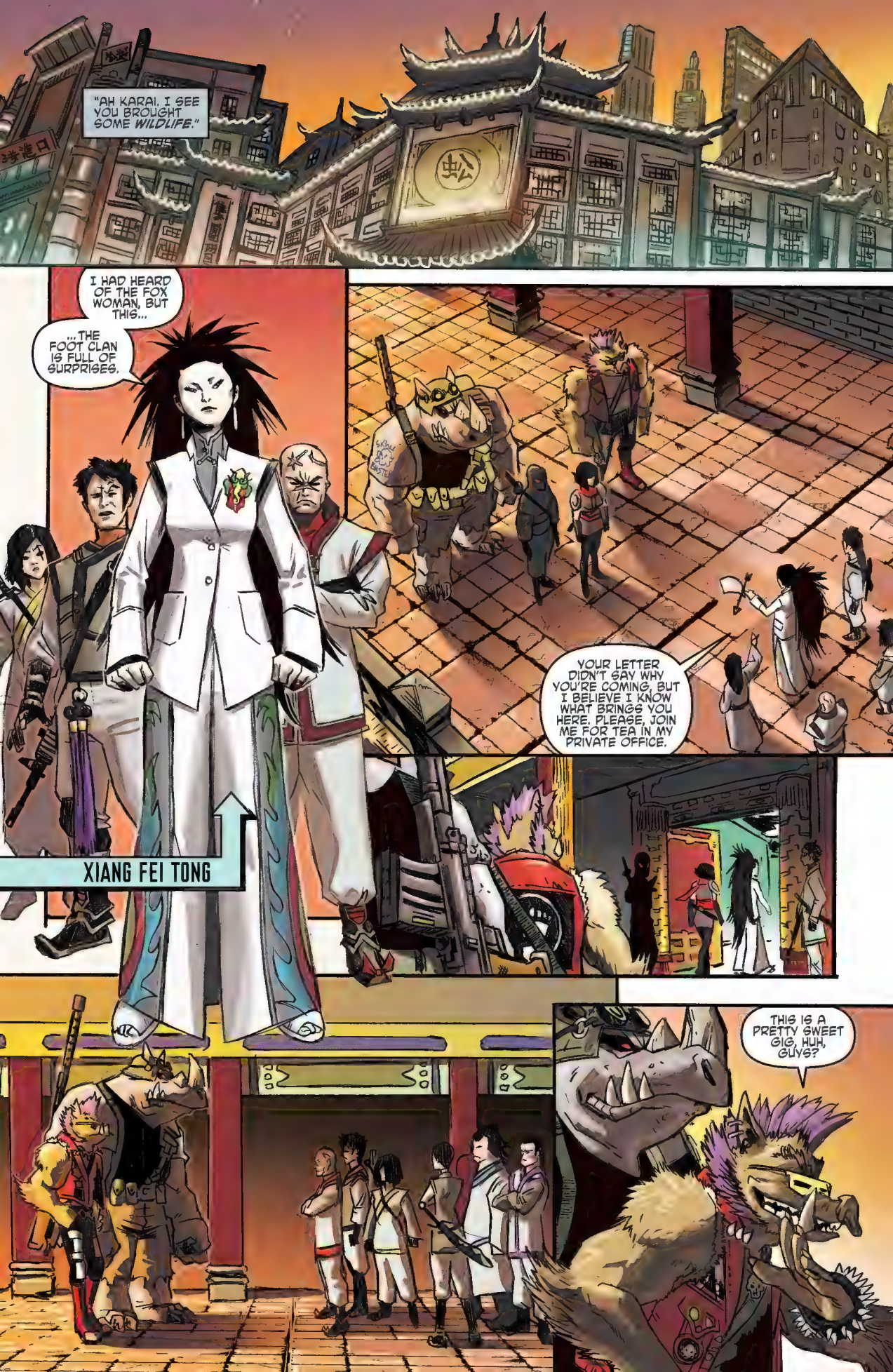
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? WE MADE IT, MAN!
YEAH, WE'RE IN THE BEST GANG EVER—*THE FOOT CLAN*.
AND WE'RE SUPER KICK-ASS MUTANTS!
JUST LOOK AT ME. ARE YOU GOING TO MESS WITH A GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE THIS? I DON'T THINK SO.
HAHAHA! YEAH! I'VE GOT A HORN ON MY NOSE. HOW GREAT IS THAT?

AND, ROCKSTEADY, WE WORK FOR *THE* SHREDDER NOW. HE'S TAKING OVER *ALL* OF NEW YORK.
HE'S LIKE THE *KING* OF NEW YORK.
THAT MAKES US LIKE THE *DUKES* OF NEW YORK.
OH YEAH! I BET THE SHREDDER IS LIKE *THE* COOLEST!
HEY, DO YOU THINK THE SHREDDER WOULD DIG IT IF I WORE TURTLE SHELLS FOR SHOULDER PADS?
HAHA, HE DOES HAVE A PROBLEM WITH TURTLES...

I BET THE GUY WOULD LOVE IT.
DUDE, HE'S GOING TO LOVE US! WE'RE GOING TO BE BEST FRIENDS!
HA HA HA

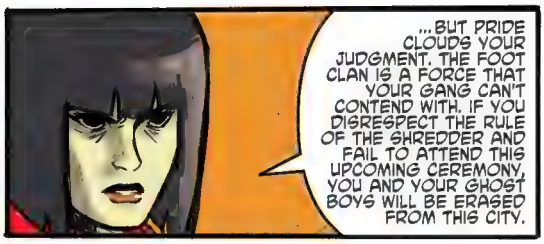
SLAP

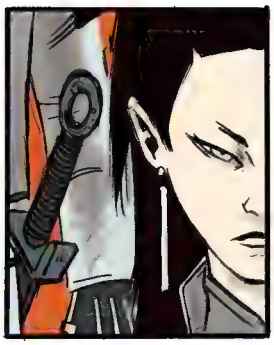
THE MASTER IS NO ONE'S FRIEND!


"AH KARAI. I SEE YOU BROUGHT SOME *WILDLIFE*."
I HAD HEARD OF THE FOX WOMAN, BUT THIS...
...THE FOOT CLAN IS FULL OF SURPRISES.
XIANG FEI TONG
YOUR LETTER DIDN'T SAY WHY YOU'RE COMING, BUT I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE. PLEASE, JOIN ME FOR TEA IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE.
THIS IS A PRETTY SWEET GIG, HUH, GUYS?

WHAT? YOU GUYS NEVER SEEN MUTANTS BEFORE?
HA. YEAH, YOU GUYS ARE PROBABLY SHAKING IN YOUR BOOTS RIGHT NOW.
NICE PAJAMAS... BUT WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR SHIRT?
WHACK
HAHAHA!
THAT ONE NEVER GETS OLD.
YOU JUST BROKE HIS NOSE! YOU ARE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT, FREAK!
YOU GUYS NEED TO LEARN TO TAKE A JOKE.
SOCK
WHOA.
HEH HEH HEH OH, MAN...
HEY FELLAS, DON'T GO STARTING TROUBLE, OKAY?
YEAH. BE PROFESSIONALS!

I KNOW HOW THIS MUST BE FOR YOU, XIANG. I SEE WHAT YOU'VE BUILT HERE. I SEE THAT YOU ARE *PROUD* OF THIS GANG...


...BUT PRIDE CLOUDS YOUR JUDGMENT. THE FOOT CLAN IS A FORCE THAT YOUR GANG CAN'T CONTEND WITH. IF YOU DISRESPECT THE RULE OF THE SHREDDER AND FAIL TO ATTEND THIS UPCOMING CEREMONY, YOU AND YOUR GHOST BOYS WILL BE ERASED FROM THIS CITY.



WHY, KARAI, OF COURSE WE WILL BE ATTENDING.
YOUR VISIT HERE, THREATENING ME, IT WAS FOR NOTHING. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CEREMONY.

BOOM!

CRASH
RATATATATATATATATA
KA-BOOM
WHAT IS THIS?!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
UH... THINGS GOT A LITTLE INTENSE OUT HERE. WE'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL THOUGH.

SO YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR MONSTERS HERE TO DESTROY US IN OUR OWN HOME. CHEN, KILL HER NOW!
Ch-Chak
OH NO YOU DON'T!
THIS IS COWARDLY AND UNDERHANDED, EVEN FOR THE FOOT! AND THE SHREDDER EXPECTS ME TO SUBMIT TO HIM? NEVER!
IT'S OKAY. I'M ALL RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY, BOSS, I GOT HER!
YEAH, LEAVE THIS TO US, BOSS.
THIS ENDS NOW...

IT'S LIKE SHE'S INHUMANLY FAST. I KNOW WE'RE THE MUTANTS BUT SHE'S FREAKISHLY FAST, AM I RIGHT?
I GOT AN IDEA!
WE'LL CUT HER OFF AT THE PASS!
BOOM
ROCKSTEADY, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

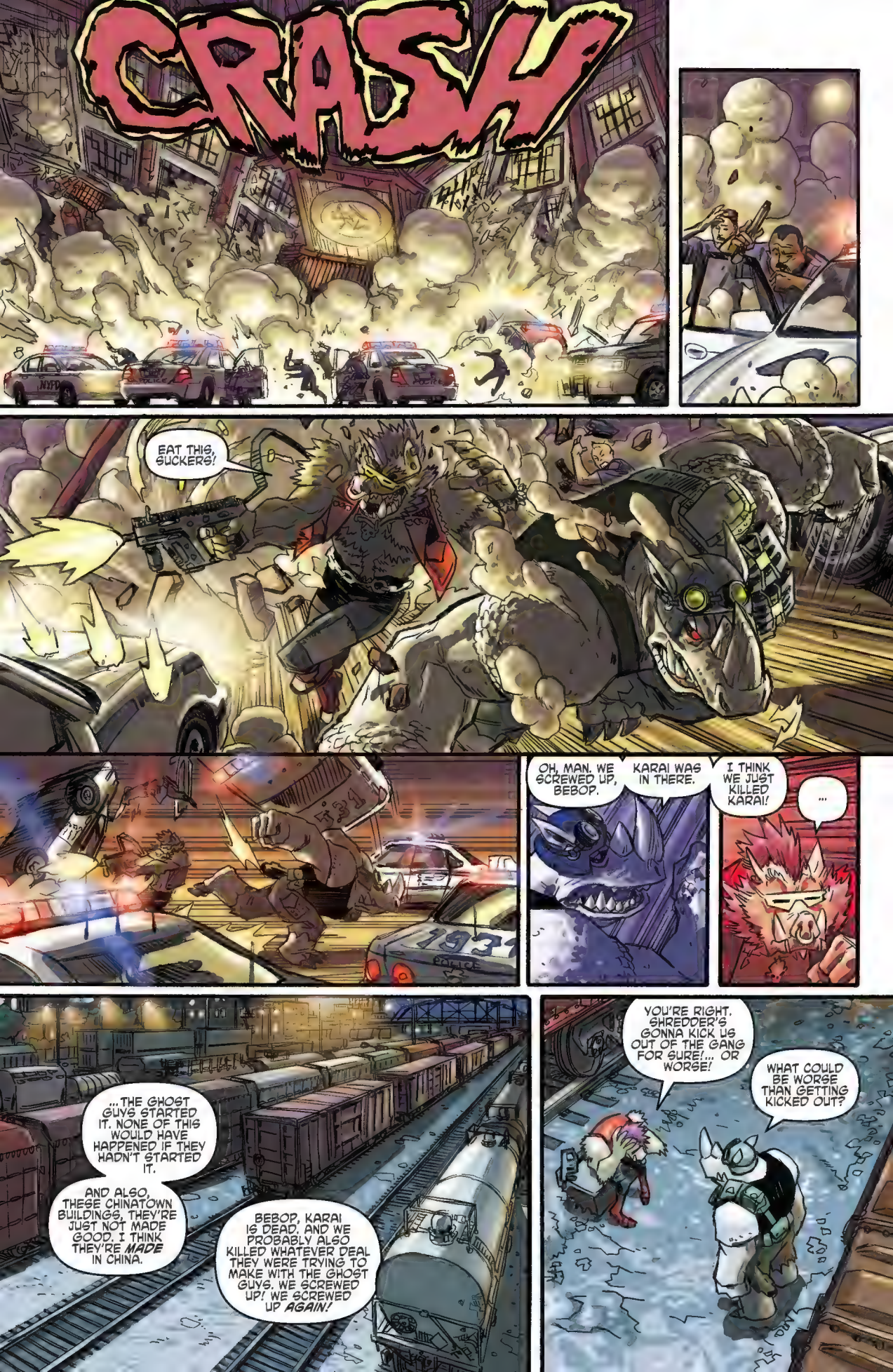
BOOM
BOOM
SHINK
YOU MISSED HER! SHE'S RIGHT HERE, YOU BOZO!
THE GHOST BOYS WILL NEVER BOW TO TRASH!
FIRST YOU RUIN THIS MEETING, NOW YOU INSULT THE MIGHT OF THE FOOT CLAN?

BOOM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOUR HORN ALMOST POKED MY EYE OUT, YOU JERK!
WHO YOU CALLING A JERK, YOU GUMBALL? I WOULDA HAD HER IF YOU WASN'T IN MY WAY!
BLAM BLAM
HEY, THAT TICKLES, YOU LITTLE CREEPS!

STOP! POLICE!

THIS IS THE POLICE. WE HAVE THE BUILDING SURROUNDED. COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP.

THE COPS! WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW, BEBOP?
MAYBE WE PRETEND TO BE A REGULAR WARTHOG AND RHINO-SAURUS AND THEY'LL JUST LET US GO...
RUMBLE
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
WAIT. HOW MANY WALLS DID WE BREAK DOWN? THERE WAS THE FIRST ONE, THEN THERE WAS—


CRASH
EAT THIS, SUCKERS!
OH, MAN. WE SCREWED UP, BEBOP.
KARAI WAS IN THERE.
I THINK WE JUST KILLED KARAI!
...
...THE GHOST GUYS STARTED IT. NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THEY HADN'T STARTED IT.
AND ALSO, THESE CHINATOWN BUILDINGS, THEY'RE JUST NOT MADE GOOD. I THINK THEY'RE *MADE* IN CHINA.
BEBOP, KARAI IS DEAD. AND WE PROBABLY ALSO KILLED WHATEVER DEAL THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE WITH THE GHOST GUYS. WE SCREWED UP! WE SCREWED UP *AGAIN!*
YOU'RE RIGHT. SHREDDER'S GONNA KICK US OUT OF THE GANG FOR SURE!... OR WORSE!
WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN GETTING KICKED OUT?

HE'LL KILL US.
KILL US? WE'RE SUPER STRONG. WE COULD PROBABLY TAKE HIM EASY. WE'LL POUND HIM INTO LETTING US WORK FOR HIM!
HOW 'BOUT THIS. LET'S JUST TELL SHREDDER THAT KARAI RAN AWAY, OR JOINED THE GHOST BOYS.
HEY, THAT AIN'T A BAD IDEA. SHE DECIDED THAT THE GHOST BOYS WERE A BETTER FIT FOR HER OR SOMETHING.
FOOSSH
THWIP THWIP THWIP
HUH?
WHAM
YOU GUYS GOT IT ALL WRONG.
WE WAS JUST DOIN' OUR JOB. THE GHOST BOYS STARTED THE FIGHT, AND THEN KARAI RAN AWAY.
YEAH, SHE SAID NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME, AND SO ON.

SILENCE.
KARAI!
THANK GOODNESS. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
YEAH, WE THOUGHT WE WERE IN BIG TROUBLE...
YOU TWO HAVE DISHONORED THE FOOT CLAN AND BROUGHT ME SHAME. I KNEW THAT YOU WERE STUPID BUT THIS... IT'S TIME TO CUT MY LOSSES.
GOODBYE, BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY.

YOU CAN'T KICK US OUT.

I KNOW WE MESSED UP... BUT WE CAN DO BETTER.

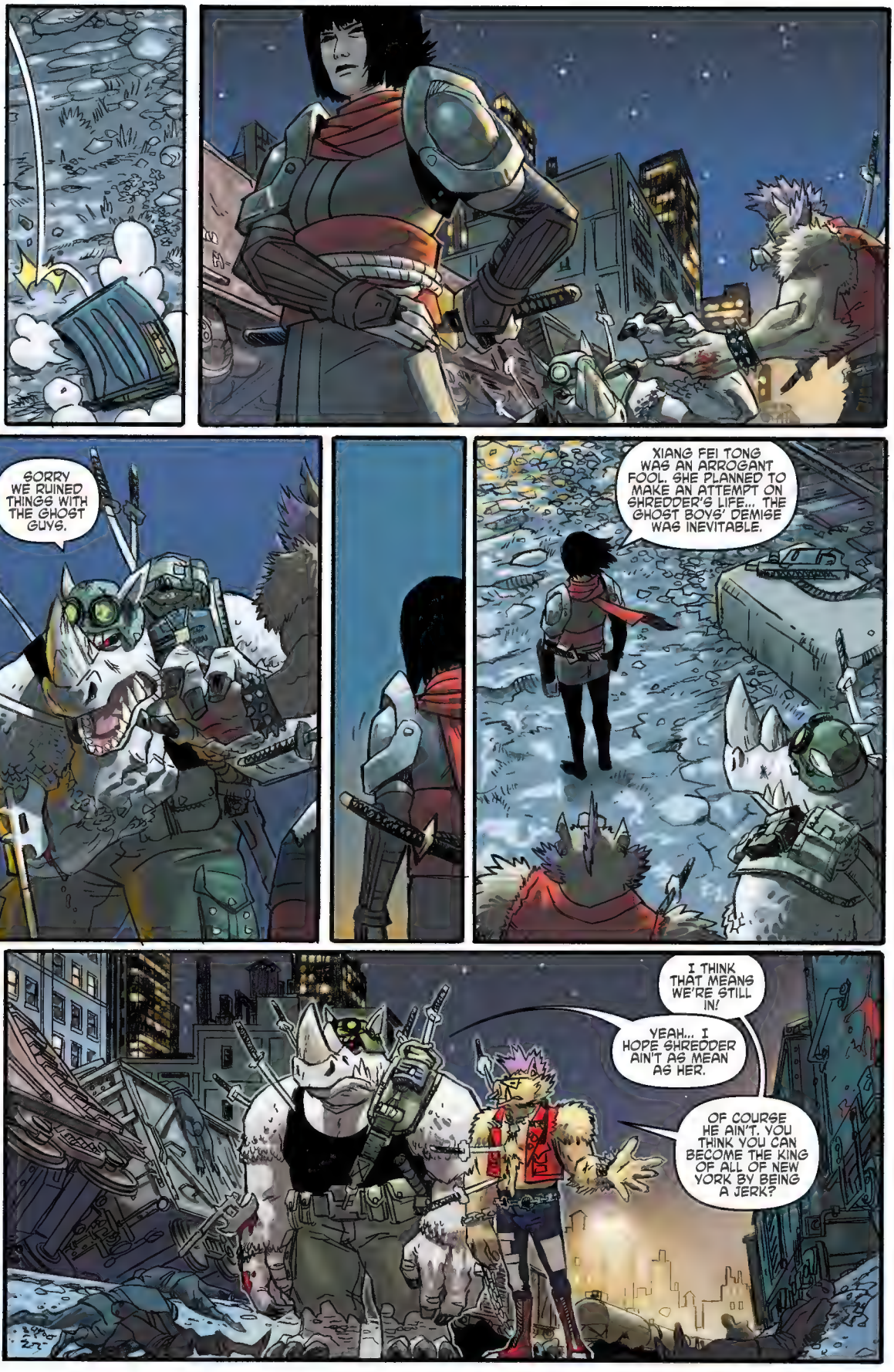
WE AIN'T GOING BACK TO BEING LOSERS. JUST DON'T KICK US OUT.

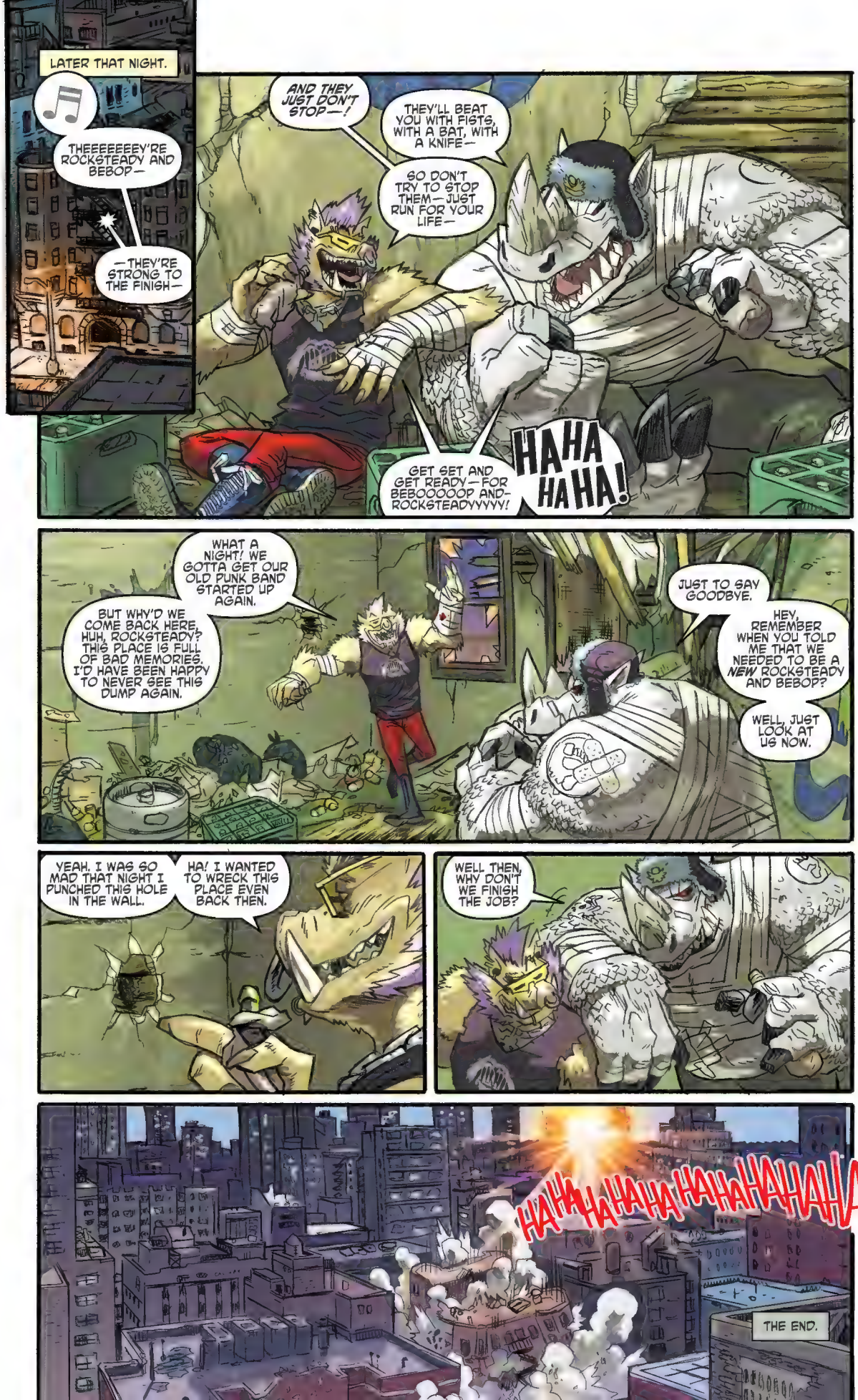
EVEN WHEN THE FOOT CLAN ATTEMPTS TO KILL YOU... YOU STILL WISH TO BELONG?

WELL, SURE. THE FOOT CLAN IS THE BEST THERE IS.

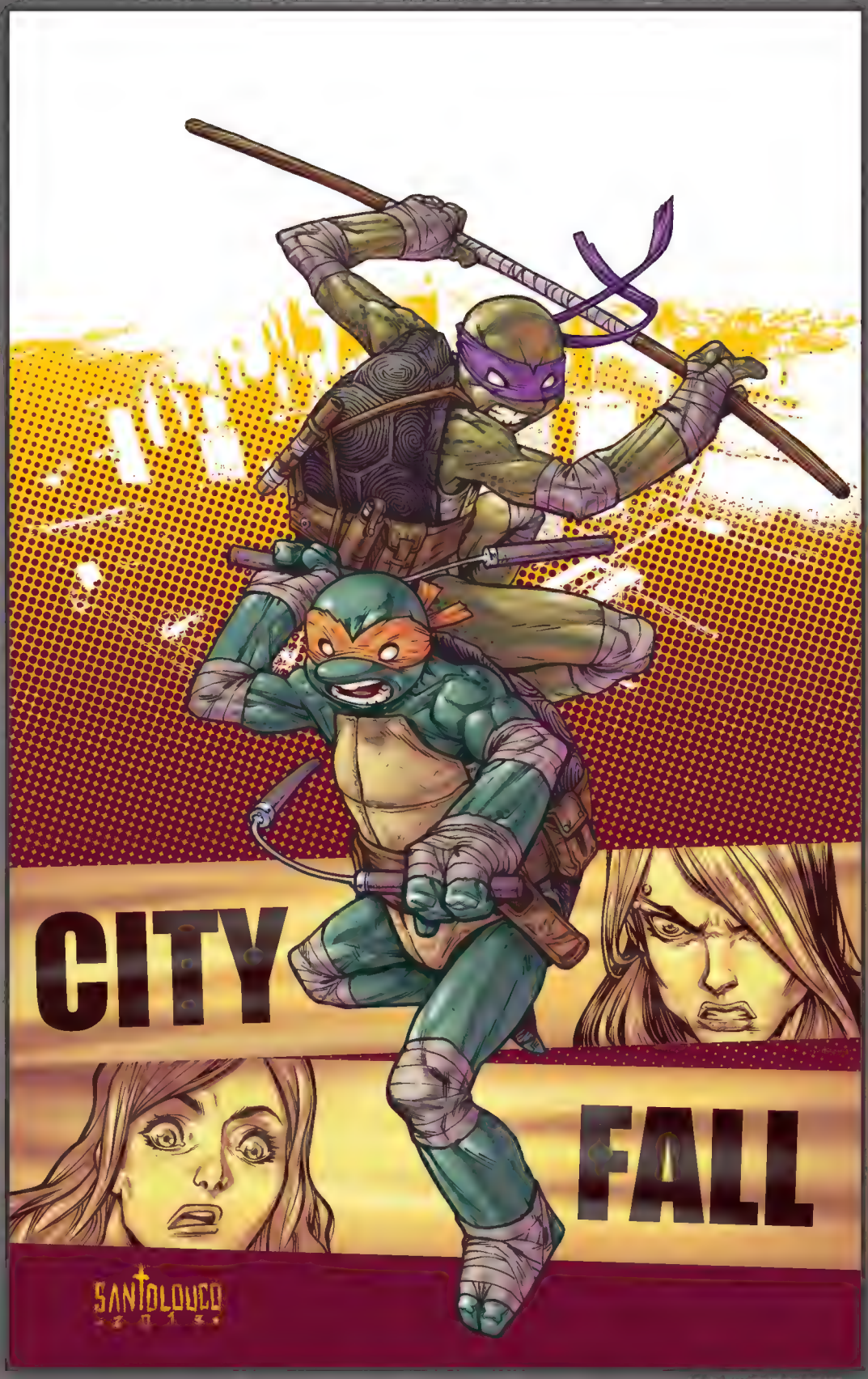
PLUS, NO ONE ELSE WILL HAVE US. WE'VE BEEN KICKED OUT OF EVERY OTHER GANG.

THOK
Grab
SHOVE
Shiik
MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD.
DEFEATING FOOT SOLDIERS IS ONE THING, BUT TO ME YOU ARE VULNERABLE IDIOTS WHOM I HAVE NO PROBLEM KILLING.
VIOLENCE. DESTRUCTION. I SEE NOW THAT THAT IS ALL YOU ARE GOOD FOR. TODAY, I'M LETTING YOU LIVE. BUT NEVER FORGET, YOUR LIVES NOW BELONG TO THE FOOT.


SORRY WE RUINED THINGS WITH THE GHOST GUYS.
XIANG FEI TONG WAS AN ARROGANT FOOL. SHE PLANNED TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT ON SHREDDER'S LIFE... THE GHOST BOYS' DEMISE WAS INEVITABLE.
I THINK THAT MEANS WE'RE STILL IN!
YEAH... I HOPE SHREDDER AIN'T AS MEAN AS HER.
OF COURSE HE AIN'T. YOU THINK YOU CAN BECOME THE KING OF ALL OF NEW YORK BY BEING A JERK?


LATER THAT NIGHT.
THEEEEEEEY'RE ROCKSTEADY AND BEBOP—
—THEY'RE STRONG TO THE FINISH—
AND THEY JUST DON'T STOP—!
THEY'LL BEAT YOU WITH FISTS, WITH A BAT, WITH A KNIFE—
SO DON'T TRY TO STOP THEM—JUST RUN FOR YOUR LIFE—
GET SET AND GET READY—FOR BEBOOOOOP AND-ROCKSTEADYYYYY!
HAHA HAHA!
WHAT A NIGHT! WE GOTTA GET OUR OLD PUNK BAND STARTED UP AGAIN.
BUT WHY'D WE COME BACK HERE, HUH, ROCKSTEADY? THIS PLACE IS FULL OF BAD MEMORIES. I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO NEVER SEE THIS DUMP AGAIN.
JUST TO SAY GOODBYE.
HEY, REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOLD ME THAT WE NEEDED TO BE A NEW ROCKSTEADY AND BEBOP?
WELL, JUST LOOK AT US NOW.
YEAH. I WAS SO MAD THAT NIGHT I PUNCHED THIS HOLE IN THE WALL.
HA! I WANTED TO WRECK THIS PLACE EVEN BACK THEN.
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE FINISH THE JOB?
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH
THE END.

art by BEN BATES



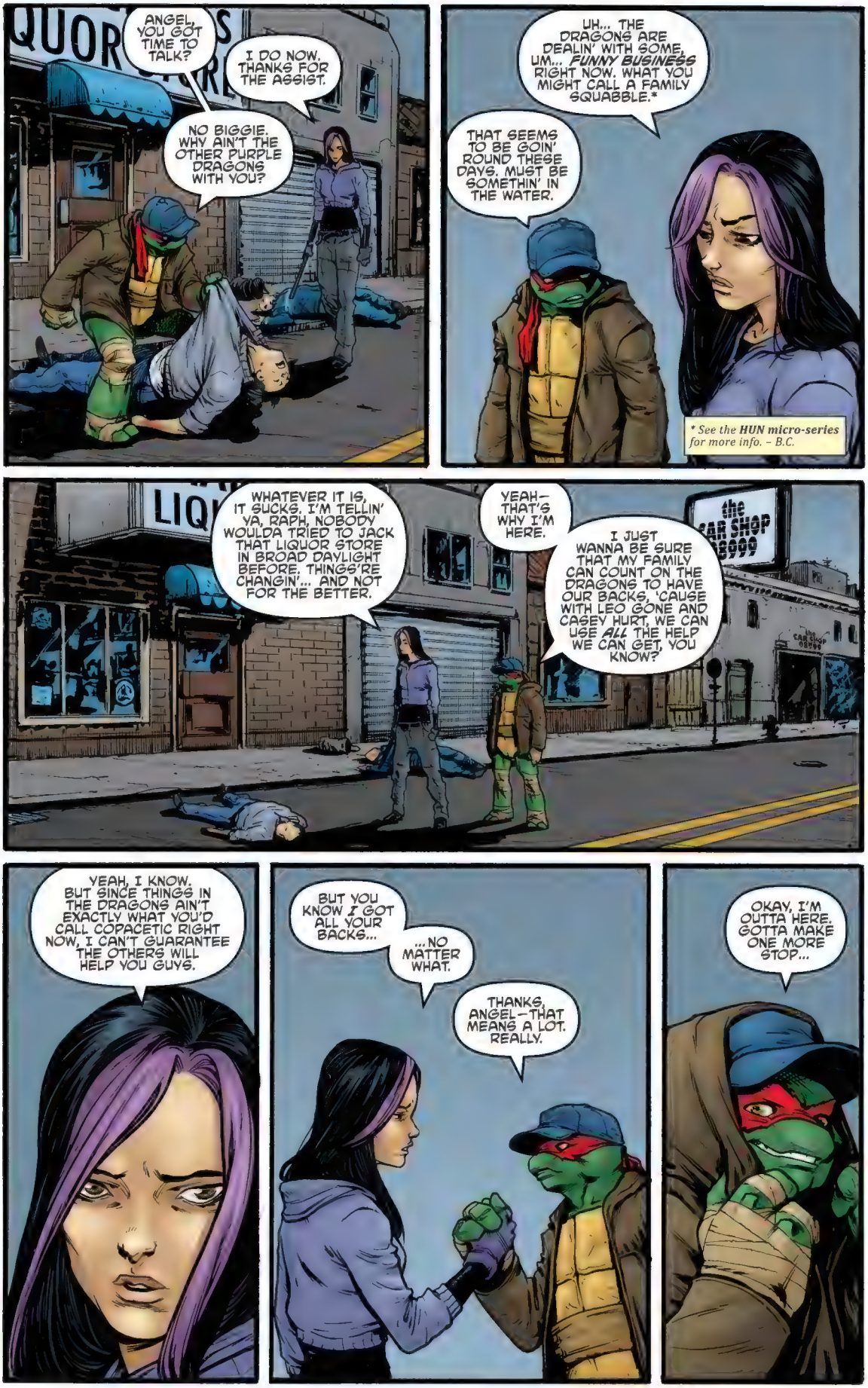
art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

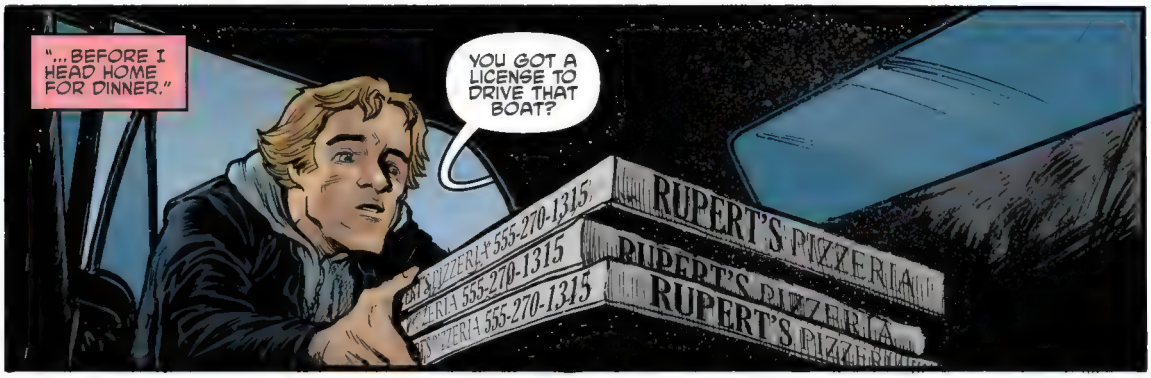
ISSUE #26

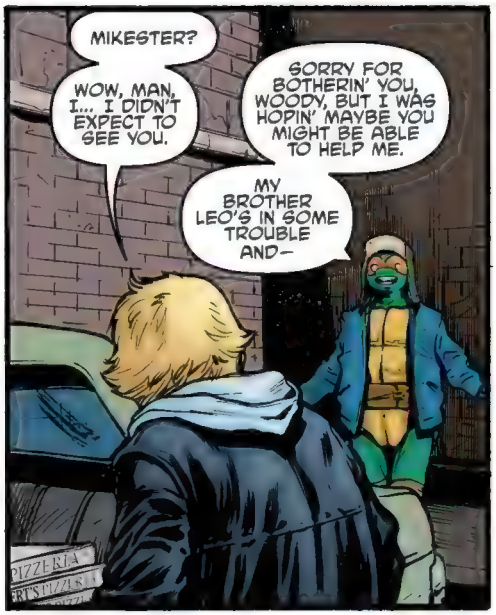
I LOVE THIS GARDEN. A DELIGHT TO THE EYES AND TO THE NOSE, IS IT NOT?
I SUPPOSE.
PLEASE, TELL ME, MY SON... WHAT TROUBLES YOU?
I'M SORRY, MOTHER—I DON'T MEAN TO BE SO GLOOMY. IT'S JUST... IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL SO EMPTY RIGHT NOW. EMPTY AND LONELY.
LIKE... LIKE I'VE LOST SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT—SOMETHING FROM DEEP INSIDE MY HEART THAT I'LL NEVER GET BACK AGAIN. IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GONE FOREVER AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS.
OH, MY BEAUTIFUL CHILD, EVEN AS MY OLDEST, YOU ARE FAR TOO YOUNG TO BEAR SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN.
I BLAME MYSELF FOR LEAVING YOU TOO SOON.
NO, MOTHER, DON'T SAY THAT. WHAT'S HAPPENED ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
NO... NO, PERHAPS NOT.
IN TRUTH, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THIS SADNESS BELONGS TO ANOTHER.
WHO, MOTHER? TELL ME... PLEASE.
MY CHILD, WHEN YOU FIND THAT WHICH YOU HAVE LOST...
...YOU WILL ALSO FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

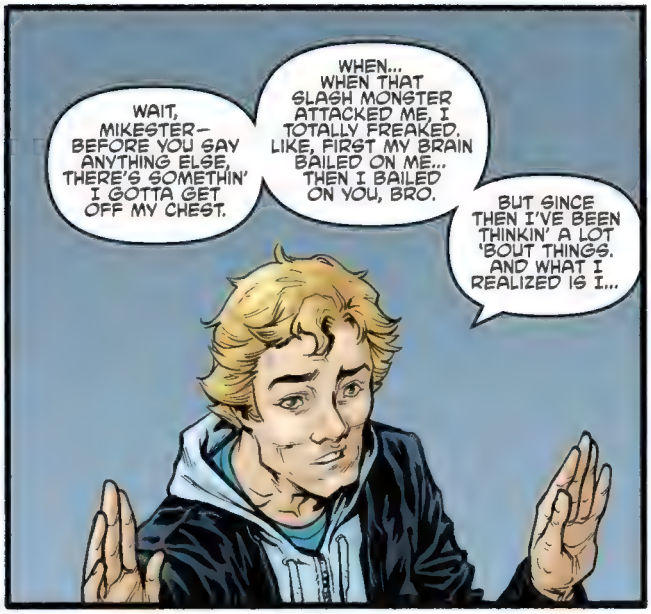
HERE... TAKE THIS— A GIFT FROM YOUR MOTHER. A REMINDER OF MY ETERNAL LOVE FOR YOU.
I KNOW YOU ARE LONELY AND CONFUSED, CHILD, BUT PLEASE REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN...
"...AND YOU ARE NEVER ALONE."
PART FIVE

NEXT TIME YOUSE GO THAT SLOW, WE AIN'T GONNA BE SO UNDERSTANDIN'!
FORGET 'EM, MAN! WE GOT THE CASH!
NOT FOR LONG.
LIQUOR STORE
CRUNCH
THE HELL?!
I GOT ANOTHER ONE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, PUNK, AND MY ARM'S NICE AND WARMED UP NOW.
YEAH, LIKE I'M SCARED OF YER LITTLE TOOTHPICK, GIRL. THINK YA CAN THROW FASTER'N I CAN SHOOT?
I CAN...
GAAH!
SHK
SHK
SHK
KRAK
...AND HERE'S ANOTHER NIFTY TRICK I KNOW.


ANGEL, YOU GOT TIME TO TALK?
I DO NOW. THANKS FOR THE ASSIST.
NO BIGGIE. WHY AIN'T THE OTHER PURPLE DRAGONS WITH YOU?
UH... THE DRAGONS ARE DEALIN' WITH SOME, UM... FUNNY BUSINESS RIGHT NOW. WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A FAMILY SQUABBLE.*
THAT SEEMS TO BE GOIN' ROUND THESE DAYS. MUST BE SOMETHIN' IN THE WATER.
* See the HUN micro-series for more info. – B.C.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT SUCKS. I'M TELLIN' YA, RAPH, NOBODY WOULDA TRIED TO JACK THAT LIQUOR STORE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT BEFORE. THINGS'RE CHANGIN'... AND NOT FOR THE BETTER.
YEAH— THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
I JUST WANNA BE SURE THAT MY FAMILY CAN COUNT ON THE DRAGONS TO HAVE OUR BACKS, 'CAUSE WITH LEO GONE AND CASEY HURT, WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, YOU KNOW?
YEAH, I KNOW. BUT SINCE THINGS IN THE DRAGONS AIN'T EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D CALL COPACETIC RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T GUARANTEE THE OTHERS WILL HELP YOU GUYS.
BUT YOU KNOW I GOT ALL YOUR BACKS...
...NO MATTER WHAT.
THANKS, ANGEL—THAT MEANS A LOT. REALLY.
OKAY, I'M OUTTA HERE. GOTTA MAKE ONE MORE STOP...


"... BEFORE I HEAD HOME FOR DINNER."
YOU GOT A LICENSE TO DRIVE THAT BOAT?
RUPERT'S PIZZERIA
555-270-1315


MIKESTER?
WOW, MAN, I... I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU.
SORRY FOR BOTHERIN' YOU, WOODY, BUT I WAS HOPIN' MAYBE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME.
MY BROTHER LEO'S IN SOME TROUBLE AND—


WAIT, MIKESTER— BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING ELSE, THERE'S SOMETHIN' I GOTTA GET OFF MY CHEST.
WHEN... WHEN THAT SLASH MONSTER ATTACKED ME, I TOTALLY FREAKED. LIKE, FIRST MY BRAIN BAILED ON ME... THEN I BAILED ON YOU, BRO.
BUT SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN THINKIN' A LOT 'BOUT THINGS. AND WHAT I REALIZED IS I...

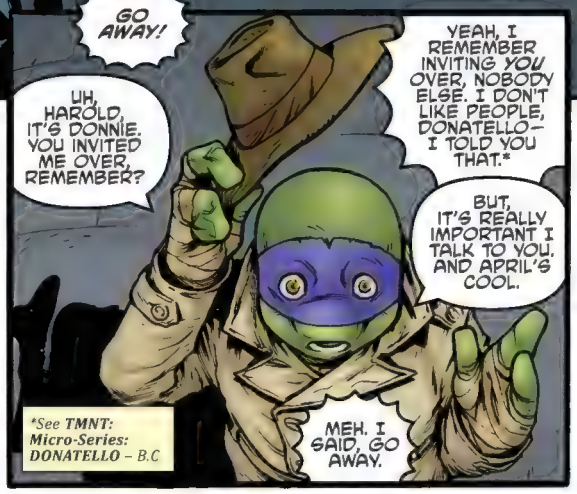
...I'VE BEEN A CRAPPY FRIEND, MIKESTER—THE WORST—AND EVEN THOUGH I DON'T DESERVE IT, I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME.
ARE YOU KIDDIN'? ALL THAT STUFF WITH SLASH *WAS* SPOOKY! BUT THAT'S OLD NEWS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MAN. LIKE MY BRO RAPH ALWAYS SAYS, CRAP HAPPENS.

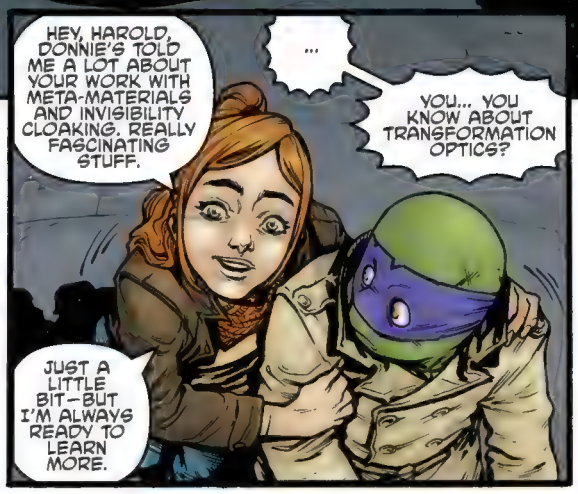
HEH! YEAH—I GUESS IT DOES.
SO... STILL PALS?

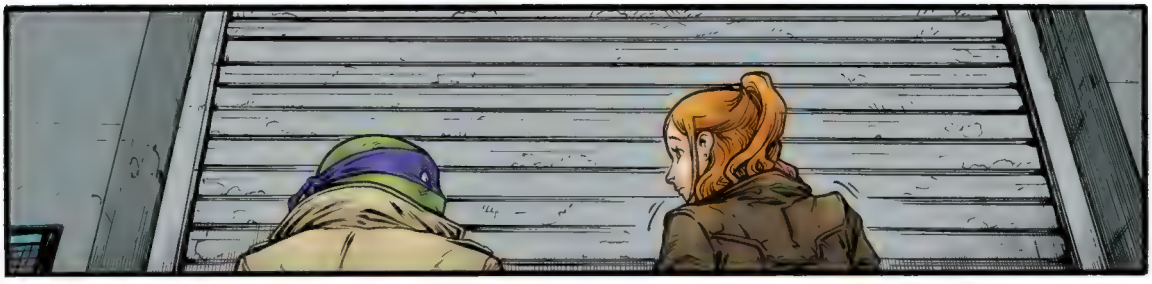
YOU KNOW IT, DUDE!

GREAT! AND HERE'S MY PEACE OFFERING– OR SHOULD I SAY, PIZZA OFFERING?
THERE'S NO ANTIPASTO LIKE YOUR OLD MAN DIGS, BUT I CAN WHIP ONE UP REAL QUICK, NO PROBLEMO.
NAH... THAT'S COOL. FATHER PROBABLY WON'T BE EATIN' WITH US ANYWAYS.
HE... HE'S BEEN KINDA BUSY LATELY. WE ALL HAVE.
'CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE YOU MENTIONED WITH LEO? WHAT'S UP?
THE STUPID FOOT AND THAT JERKWAD SHREDDER TOOK HIM AND THEY GOT HIM ALL MESSED UP, FIGHTIN' AGAINST US AND EVERYTHING.
ME AND MY BROTHERS ARE TRYIN' TO GET HIM BACK, ASKIN' EVERYONE WE KNOW IF THEY HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT. IT'S A LONG SHOT BUT WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'.
YOU KNOW, I ACTUALLY DID HEAR SOMETHING ABOUT THE FOOT FROM SOME CREEPY DUDES I DELIVERED PIZZA TO EARLIER. THEY WERE TALKIN' ABOUT A STREET WAR BREWIN', CRAZY STUFF LIKE THAT.
SERIOUSLY? WHAT ELSE'D THEY SAY?
HONESTLY, I DIDN'T STICK AROUND.
LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S SOME PLACES I DON'T LIKE TO DELIVER TO THESE DAYS.
REALLY?

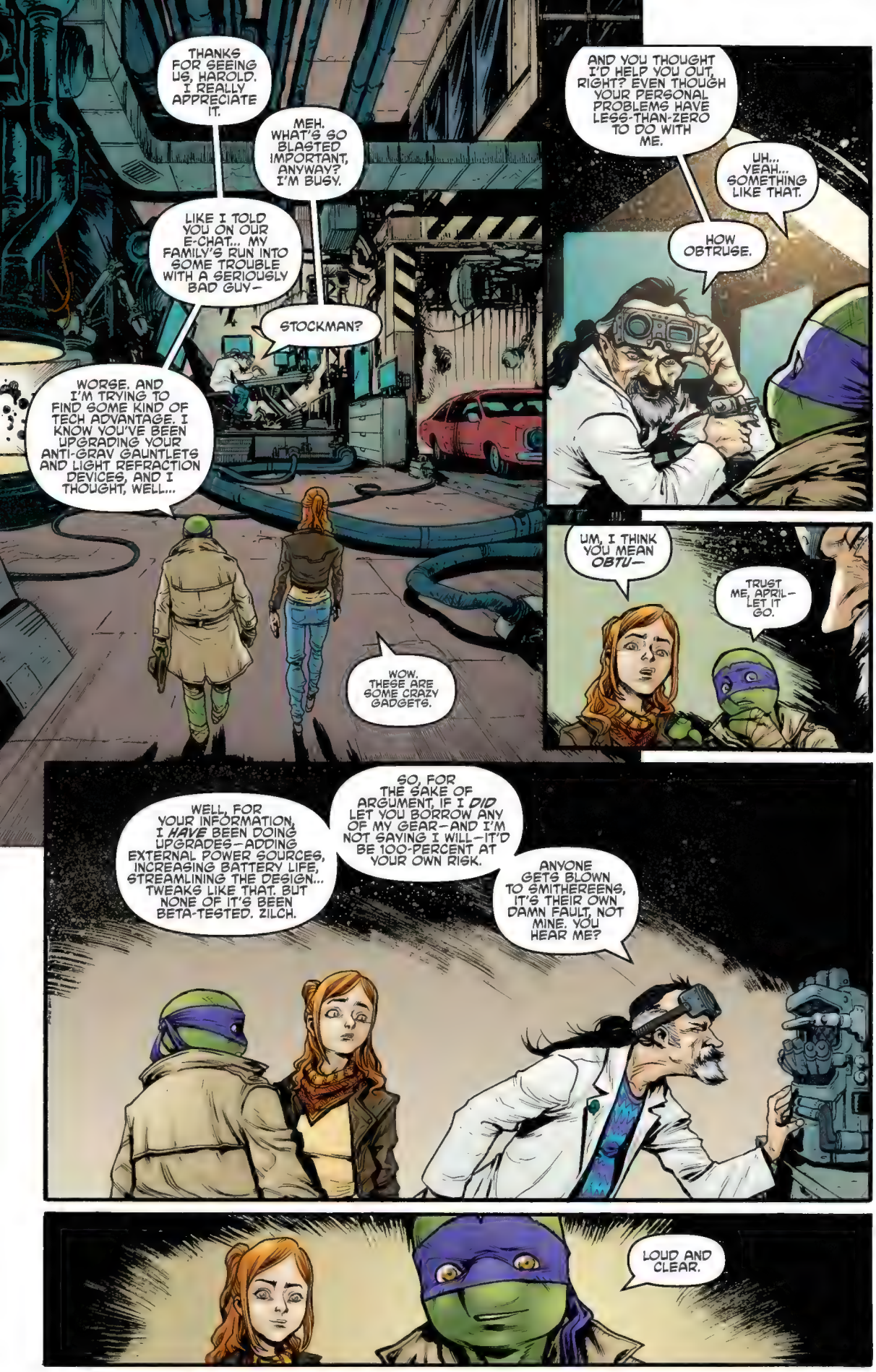
"WHAT KIND OF PLACES?"
SO, DONNIE... THIS IS YOUR FRIEND'S LAB?
WELL, THIS IS THE ADDRESS HAROLD GAVE ME.
LOOKS MORE LIKE SOMETHING STRAIGHT OUT OF A SURVIVAL HORROR VIDEO GAME, YOU ASK ME.
BZZZT


GO AWAY!
UH, HAROLD, IT'S DONNIE. YOU INVITED ME OVER, REMEMBER?
YEAH, I REMEMBER INVITING YOU OVER, NOBODY ELSE. I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE, DONATELLO— I TOLD YOU THAT.*
BUT, IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT I TALK TO YOU. AND APRIL'S COOL.
MEH. I SAID, GO AWAY.
*See TMNT: Micro-Series: DONATELLO – B.C


HEY, HAROLD, DONNIE'S TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOUR WORK WITH META-MATERIALS AND INVISIBILITY CLOAKING. REALLY FASCINATING STUFF.
...
YOU... YOU KNOW ABOUT TRANSFORMATION OPTICS?
JUST A LITTLE BIT— BUT I'M ALWAYS READY TO LEARN MORE.



CHOK
KNZZZ
WHOA. NICE GOING, APRIL.
JUST A LITTLE TRICK OF THE LIGHT, MY FRIEND.
OH, HAR-DEE HAR HAR...


THANKS FOR SEEING US, HAROLD. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
MEH. WHAT'S SO BLASTED IMPORTANT, ANYWAY? I'M BUSY.
LIKE I TOLD YOU ON OUR E-CHAT... MY FAMILY'S RUN INTO SOME TROUBLE WITH A SERIOUSLY BAD GUY—
STOCKMAN?
WORSE. AND I'M TRYING TO FIND SOME KIND OF TECH ADVANTAGE. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN UPGRADING YOUR ANTI-GRAV GAUNTLETS AND LIGHT REFRACTION DEVICES, AND I THOUGHT, WELL...
WOW. THESE ARE SOME CRAZY GADGETS.
AND YOU THOUGHT I'D HELP YOU OUT, RIGHT? EVEN THOUGH YOUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS HAVE LESS-THAN-ZERO TO DO WITH ME.
UH... YEAH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HOW OBTRUSE.
UM, I THINK YOU MEAN OBTU—
TRUST ME, APRIL— LET IT GO.
WELL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I HAVE BEEN DOING UPGRADES—ADDING EXTERNAL POWER SOURCES, INCREASING BATTERY LIFE, STREAMLINING THE DESIGN... TWEAKS LIKE THAT. BUT NONE OF IT'S BEEN BETA-TESTED. ZILCH.
SO, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, IF I DID LET YOU BORROW ANY OF MY GEAR—AND I'M NOT SAYING I WILL—IT'D BE 100-PERCENT AT YOUR OWN RISK.
ANYONE GETS BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS, IT'S THEIR OWN DAMN FAULT, NOT MINE. YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR.

AND SO IT COMES TO THIS, MY FRIENDS...
...WE HAVE CRUSHED ALL OUR ENEMIES, SAVE ONE, AND NOW WE MUST MOVE TO ANNIHILATE THEM AS WELL.
WE DO THIS, AND THE CITY BELONGS TO THE SAVATE.
YOU KNOW WE WILL FOLLOW YOU DOWN WHATEVER PATH YOU CHOOSE, VICTOR.
WHEN DO YOU WISH TO STRIKE AGAINST THE FOOT?
VERY SOON, PIERRE. WHEN THE CRETINS LEAST EXPECT IT.
I PROMISE YOU...
...THEY'LL NEVER SEE US COMING.

KSSHH

THE FOOT!
KILL THEM!

THUK
THUK

KARAI! WE'VE INFILTRATED THE COMMAND CENTER...

...STAND BY UNTIL I GIVE THE ORDER TO JOIN THE ATTACK.
UNDERSTOOD.
FOOT! WITH ME!
BUT, KARAI, LEONARDO ORDERED US TO WAIT FOR—
LESS TALKING, ALOPEX...
...MORE FIGHTING.
BLAM
BLAM
MASTER! VICTOR IS RUNNING!
GIVE CHASE, LEONARDO. TEACH THE CRAVEN FOOL...

"...THERE IS NOWHERE HE CAN HIDE."
SO HERE IT IS. THE LITTLE FAVOR I NEED DONE AT STOCKGEN.
I WANT A *MUTANT ARMY*. I NEED *MUTAGEN*, AND WE BOTH KNOW THERE'S PLENTY OF IT INSIDE THIS HELLHOLE. THING IS, THEY AIN'T EXACTLY GIVIN' IT AWAY.
SO, I FIGURE, IF I'M EVER GONNA GET ANY, I GOTTA *TAKE* IT. AND WHO BETTER TO DO THAT FOR ME THAN THE LITTLE LAB RAT THAT USED TO HAVE THE RUN OF THE PLACE, AM I RIGHT?
YOU SNEAK IN, GRAB A BUNCH OF THE GREEN STUFF FOR ME, AND SNEAK OUT. EASY PEASY.
ONCE I GOT MY MUTAGEN WE'LL BE SQUARE, AND THEN WE CAN START WORKIN' ON THAT LITTLE MISSING TURTLE PROBLEM OF YOURS.
AND RESCUING LEONARDO IS THE *ONLY* REASON I AM AGREEING TO THIS. DO *NOT* FORGET THAT FACT.
YOU SPOKE EARLIER OF A "GOOD FAITH" MISSION, OLD HOB, WHEN IN TRUTH THERE IS ABSOLUTELY *NOTHING* GOOD ABOUT ANY OF THIS.
YEAH, WELL—YOU SAY POTATO, RAT...
OKAY, HE'S GONE. YOU READY, BIG BOY?
READY.

"YOU WON'T TAKE ME, MUTANT..."

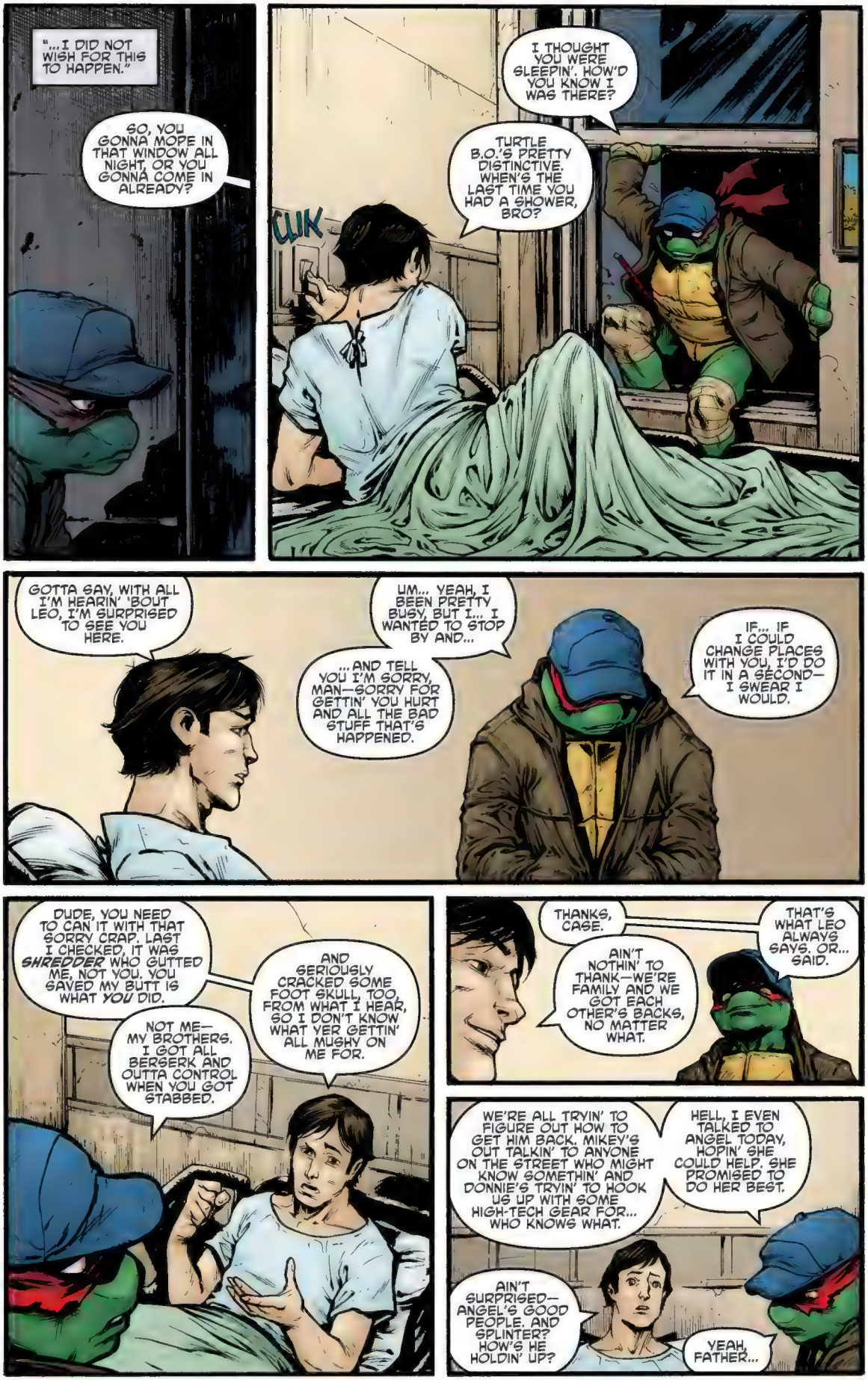
...ONLY DEATH WILL DECIDE THIS!
COUNT ON IT.
KNASH
FILTHY ABOMINATION! WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?!
HERE.
FWP
WHA—?
GAAH!
AND HERE.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT.
WE'LL SEE.
SCHINK

HNF!
SWHIP
FWP
WHAP
IMPRESSIVE.
AND I'M JUST GETTING STARTED.

THEN ALLOW ME TO FINISH!
FWSSH
WHOMP
UFF!
NO...
CRAK
... ALLOW ME.
CHUNIN, STAY YOUR HAND!
IT IS OVER.
WE HAVE WON.

BUT, MASTER, IF... IF WE'VE WON, WHY LET HIM LIVE?
WE'VE WON THE BATTLE, YES, BUT THE WAR IS NOT YET OURS.
FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE *OTHER* PLANS FOR VICTOR—
—PLANS THAT REQUIRE HE REMAIN ALIVE... FOR NOW.
TH-THEN THAT'LL BE YOUR LAST MISTAKE...
MOVE, LEONARDO!
BLAM
YAGGH!
SLASH
COWARD'S WEAPON!
BIND HIS WOUNDS AND DO NOT ALLOW HIM TO BLEED OUT.
HE WILL DEPART THIS LIFE SOON ENOUGH...
MY... MY HAND...

"...BUT ONLY WHEN I SAY HE CAN GO."
FREEZE!
DON'T EVEN MOVE A MILLIMETER OR I KID YOU NOT, I WILL DECORATE THIS HALLWAY WITH YOUR GUTS.
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHIN' SCUTTLIN' 'AROUND HERE EARLIER. FIGURES IN THIS CREEPY DAMN PLACE IT'D BE A GIANT RA—
WHA—?
FWAP
THOK
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...


"...I DID NOT WISH FOR THIS TO HAPPEN."
SO, YOU GONNA MOPE IN THAT WINDOW ALL NIGHT, OR YOU GONNA COME IN ALREADY?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPIN'. HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS THERE?
TURTLE B.O.'S PRETTY DISTINCTIVE. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A SHOWER, BRO?
CLIK
GOTTA SAY, WITH ALL I'M HEARIN' 'BOUT LEO, I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.
UM... YEAH, I BEEN PRETTY BUSY, BUT I... I WANTED TO STOP BY AND...
... AND TELL YOU I'M SORRY, MAN—SORRY FOR GETTIN' YOU HURT AND ALL THE BAD STUFF THAT'S HAPPENED.
IF... IF I COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH YOU, I'D DO IT IN A SECOND—I SWEAR I WOULD.
DUDE, YOU NEED TO CAN IT WITH THAT SORRY CRAP. LAST I CHECKED, IT WAS SHREDDER WHO GUTTED ME, NOT YOU. YOU SAVED MY BUTT IS WHAT YOU DID.
NOT ME—MY BROTHERS. I GOT ALL BERSERK AND OUTTA CONTROL WHEN YOU GOT STABBED.
AND SERIOUSLY CRACKED SOME FOOT SKULL, TOO, FROM WHAT I HEAR, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT YER GETTIN' ALL MUSHY ON ME FOR.
THANKS, CASE.
AIN'T NOTHIN' TO THANK—WE'RE FAMILY AND WE GOT EACH OTHER'S BACKS, NO MATTER WHAT.
THAT'S WHAT LEO ALWAYS SAYS. OR... SAID.
WE'RE ALL TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET HIM BACK. MIKEY'S OUT TALKIN' TO ANYONE ON THE STREET WHO MIGHT KNOW SOMETHIN' AND DONNIE'S TRYIN' TO HOOK US UP WITH SOME HIGH-TECH GEAR FOR... WHO KNOWS WHAT.
HELL, I EVEN TALKED TO ANGEL TODAY, HOPIN' SHE COULD HELP. SHE PROMISED TO DO HER BEST.
AIN'T SURPRISED—ANGEL'S GOOD PEOPLE. AND SPLINTER? HOW'S HE HOLDIN' UP?
YEAH, FATHER...

"...HIM, I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT."
HERE IS YOUR MUTAGEN, OLD HOB.
DAMN, THAT WAS QUICK. I NEED TO HAVE YOU DO FAVORS FOR ME MORE OFTEN.
NO, MY ERRAND IS COMPLETE. THERE WILL BE NO MORE FAVORS—ONLY YOU DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE YOU MADE ME.
I WILL BE CALLING ON YOU SOON, OLD HOB...
...AND I FIRMLY RECOMMEND YOU RESPOND PROMPTLY WHEN THAT TIME COMES.
DID YOU FINISH?
YES. FINISHED.
GOOD. GUESS WE'RE DONE HERE, THEN.
NO MORE PAIN?
NOPE, BIG GUY...
CLK
...NO MORE PAIN.

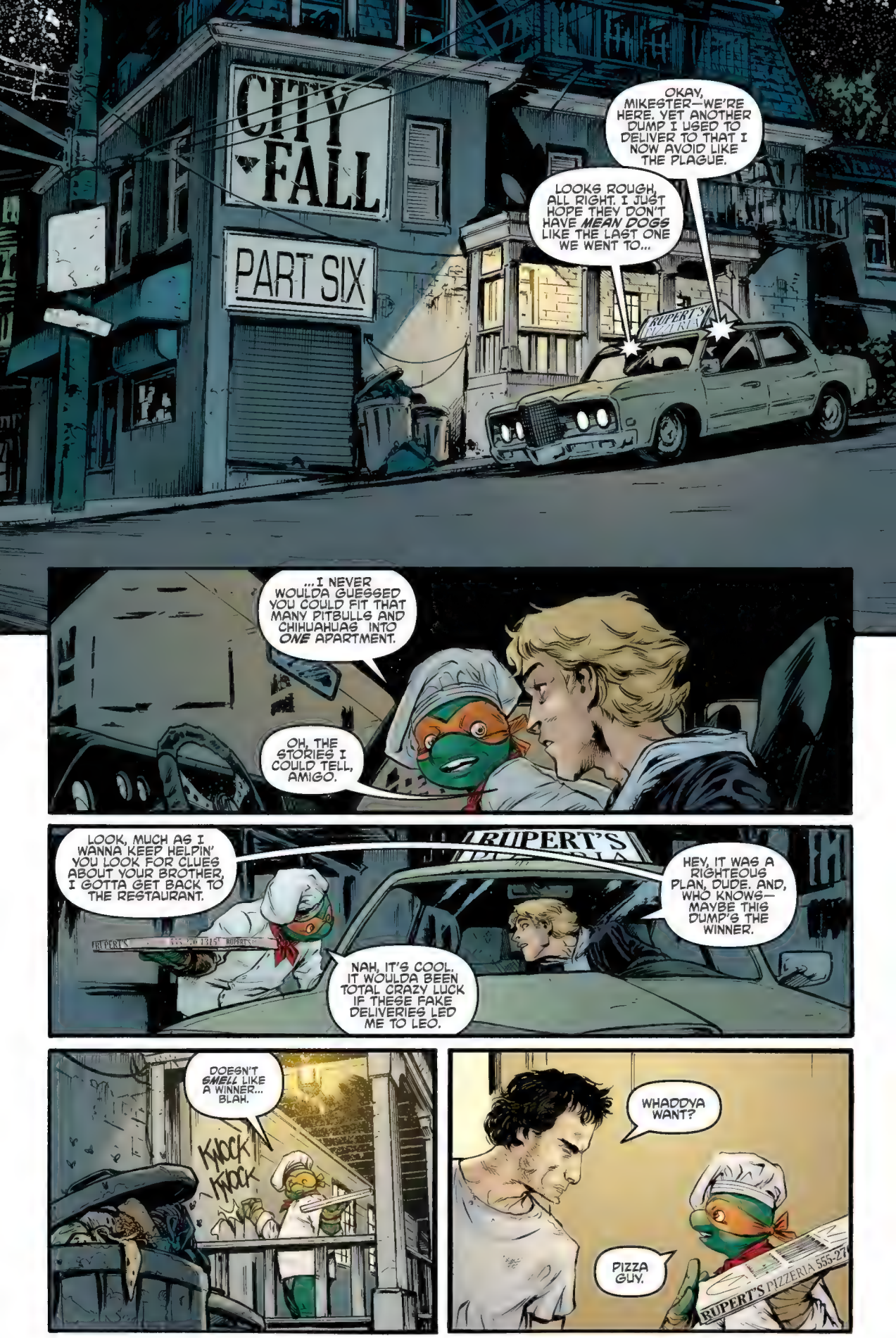
STOCKGEN
KGEN
RESEARCH INC
he Future
RESTRICTED AREA
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
BEEP
ARMED
BEEP
ARMED
BOOM
"WE HAVE DESTROYED THE ENEMY..."

...WHERE IS MY GRANDFATHER?
KARAI? WE DID NOT EXPECT Y—
ANSWER MY QUESTION, IMBECILE.
THE... THE MASTER IS IN THE NEXT ROOM—WITH HIS CHUNIN.
THE SAVATE HAVE FALLEN AND SO, TOO, WILL THE CITY. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
MY... HAND...
LOOK OUT THERE. ALL THAT YOU CAN SEE WILL BELONG TO US VERY SOON...
...AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
YES... IT IS.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by RONDA PATTISON

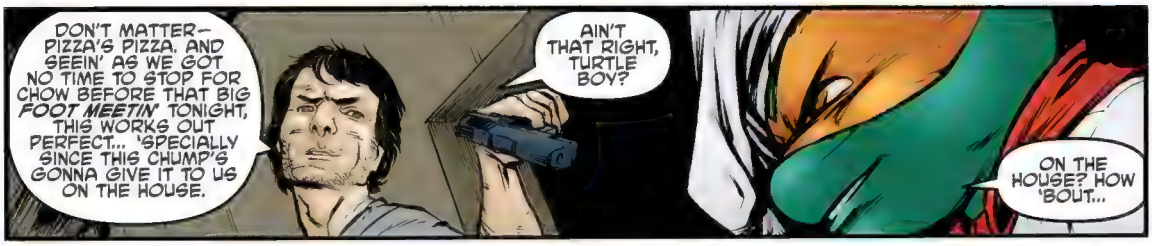
art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

ISSUE #27


CITY FALL
PART SIX
OKAY, MIKESTER—WE'RE HERE. YET ANOTHER DUMP I USED TO DELIVER TO THAT I NOW AVOID LIKE THE PLAGUE.
LOOKS ROUGH, ALL RIGHT. I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T HAVE *MEAN DOGS* LIKE THE LAST ONE WE WENT TO...
RUPERT'S PIZZERIA
...I NEVER WOULDA GUESSED YOU COULD FIT THAT MANY PITBULLS AND CHIHUAHUAS INTO *ONE* APARTMENT.
OH, THE STORIES I COULD TELL, AMIGO.
LOOK, MUCH AS I WANNA KEEP HELPIN' YOU LOOK FOR CLUES ABOUT YOUR BROTHER, I GOTTA GET BACK TO THE RESTAURANT.
RUPERT'S
HEY, IT WAS A RIGHTEOUS PLAN, DUDE. AND, WHO KNOWS—MAYBE THIS DUMP'S THE WINNER.
NAH, IT'S COOL. IT WOULDA BEEN TOTAL CRAZY LUCK IF THESE FAKE DELIVERIES LED ME TO LEO.
DOESN'T *SMELL* LIKE A WINNER... BLAH.
KNOCK KNOCK
WHADDYA WANT?
PIZZA GUY.
RUPERT'S PIZZERIA 555-27

PIZZA? WE DIDN'T ORDER NO...
...WAIT— WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
RUPERT'S PIZZERIA

OH, THIS? JUST A COSTUME, MAN. YOU KNOW... "MIKEY'S TURTLE PIZZA—WHERE YOU ALWAYS GET A SHELL OF A DEAL."
MIKEY'S TURTLE PIZZA? NEVER HEARD OF IT.


DON'T MATTER— PIZZA'S PIZZA, AND SEEIN' AS WE GOT NO TIME TO STOP FOR CHOW BEFORE THAT BIG *FOOT MEETIN'* TONIGHT, THIS WORKS OUT PERFECT... 'SPECIALLY SINCE THIS CHUMP'S GONNA GIVE IT TO US ON THE HOUSE.
AIN'T THAT RIGHT, TURTLE BOY?
ON THE HOUSE? HOW 'BOUT...

SPLATCH
...ON THE FACE?!
KLAM

SO, YOU DUDES GOT A BIG MEETIN' TO GO TO, HUH?
WHAM

HOW'S A GUY SCORE AN *INVITE?*

I DON'T CARE WHAT HUN SAYS, MALO...
...THE PURPLE DRAGONS GOT NO BUSINESS WORKIN' WITH THE FOOT. THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT CROOKS AND KILLERS, MAN, AND WE PUT THAT KINDA BAD NEWS BEHIND US A LONG TIME AGO.
MAYBE. BUT ALL YOUR TALK ABOUT HELPIN' YOUR MUTANT BUDDIES AIN'T SOUNDIN' TOO GOOD NEITHER, ANGEL.
NO... IT'S NOT.
HUN!
THOUGHT WE ALREADY SETTLED ALL THIS, ANGEL.*
THE DRAGONS ARE DONE BEIN' BYSTANDERS. THE FOOT WANT US AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS—THEY'RE GONNA OWN THIS WHOLE CITY SOON AND GETTIN' A PIECE OF THAT ACTION IS WAY BETTER THAN BABYSITTIN' SOME GREEN FREAKS.
ANYONE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT...
*See TMNT Villain Micro-Series #6: HUN – B.C.
...ANSWERS TO ME.
YOU KNOW— I DO GOT PROBLEMS. WITH THE FOOT, YEAH...
...BUT MOSTLY WITH YOU.
YOU SURE YOU WANNA BE DOIN' THAT? I LET YOU OFF ONCE 'CAUSE ME AND YOUR OLD MAN GO WAY BACK, BUT ONCE IS ALL YOU GET.

YOU MIGHT WANNA PUT THEM LITTLE TWIGS AWAY BEFORE I DO IT FOR YOU, GIRL.
YOU CAN TRY, BUT I AIN'T ABOUT TO LET YOU WRECK THE DRAGONS.
YEAH? WELL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HEAR COMPLAININ'.
MAYBE 'CAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO AIN'T AFRAID TO!
KRAK
HEH. NICE ONE. I ALMOST FELT THAT.
OKAY, YOU TOOK YOUR BEST SHOT...
...MY TURN.
STOP!
WHO THE—?

THE FOOT CLAN HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE CITY. THE MASTER IS CALLING ALL CLANDESTINE ELEMENTS OF NEW YORK TO A MEETING TONIGHT—A DEMONSTRATION OF POWER TO SHOW THAT THERE ARE NONE WHO STAND IN HIS WAY.
ATTENDANCE IS *MANDATORY*. DISREGARDING THIS INVITATION IS TANTAMOUNT TO DEATH. YOU EITHER SERVE THE FOOT...
...OR YOU DIE.
YOU SEE THIS, DRAGONS?! WHAT'D I TELL YOU? THE SHREDDER OWNS THE CITY AND NOW HE WANTS US BY HIS SIDE. US!
I'M GONNA ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME—DO YOU WANNA BACK ANGEL AND THOSE FILTHY, STINKIN' MUTANTS OF HERS... OR DO YOU WANNA GET FILTHY, STINKIN' RICH AND POWERFUL WITH THE HUN?!
YOU HEARIN' WHAT I'M HEARIN', ANGEL?
SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT. OR YOU STILL WANNA *FIGHT* ABOUT IT?
NAH, I'M DONE—THE DRAGONS ARE ALL YOURS. I DON'T WANT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH 'EM ANYMORE IF THE IDIOTS WANNA FOLLOW A GORILLA LIKE YOU.
THEY'LL *REGRET* IT. PROBABLY TOO LATE, BUT THEY WILL.
WE'LL SEE WHO REGRETS WHAT, GIRLIE...

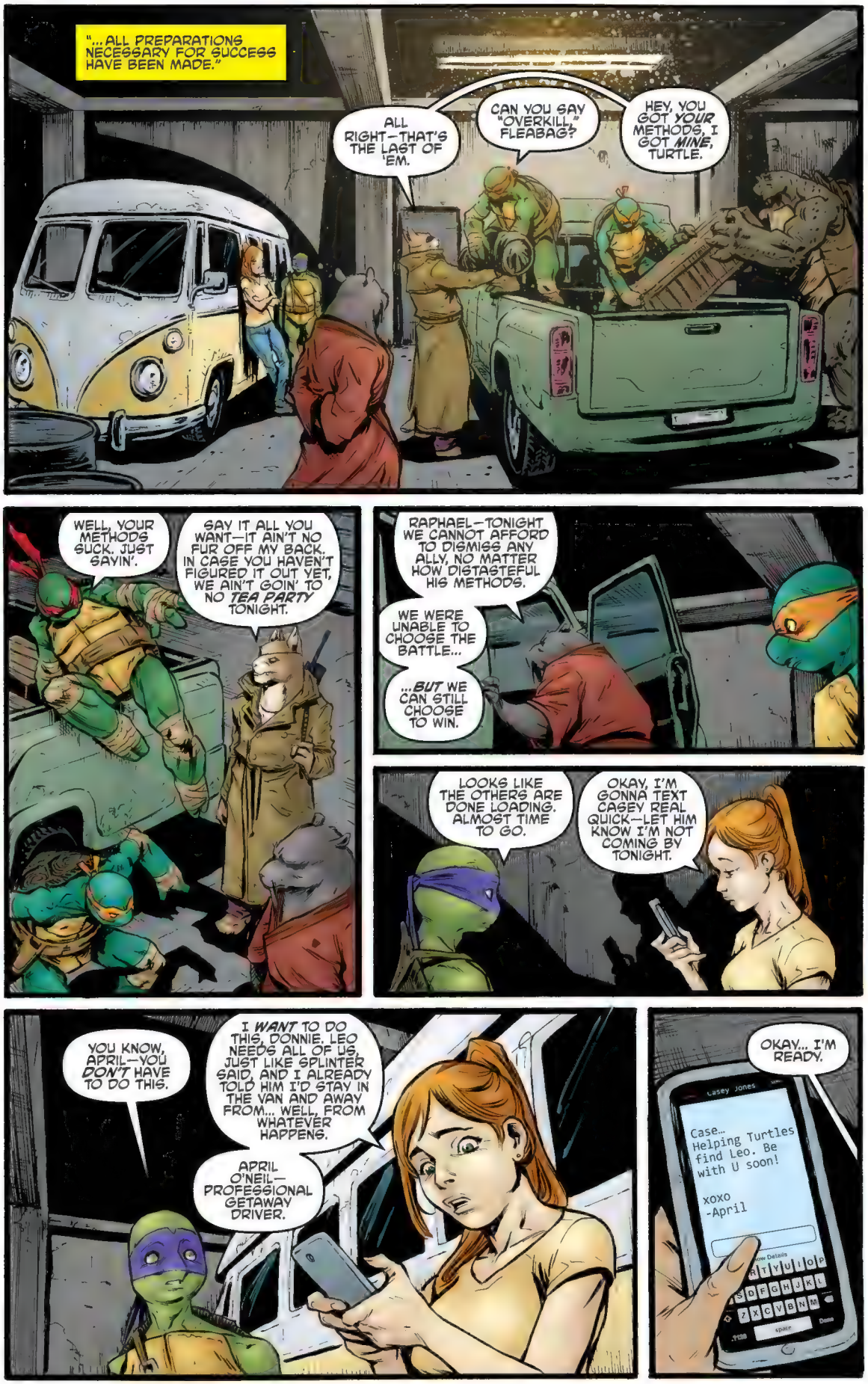
SO, IT'S EASY TO SEE HOW THESE THINGS MIGHT COME IN HANDY, RIGHT, RAPH?
DONNIE, SOMETIMES WHAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SEE IS LIKE A GAZILLION MILES AWAY FOR THE REST OF US.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, YOU'RE TALKIN' 'BOUT USIN' THESE GIZMOS TO FIGHT THE FOOT WHILE I'M STILL TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO TURN THE STUPID THINGS ON.
THEY'RE NOT STUPID, RAPH—THEY'RE HIGHLY ADVANCED AND SPECIALIZED TECH. HAROLD'S DONE A LOT OF WORK TO IMPROVE THEM, ESPECIALLY THE BATTERY LIFE.
AND, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THERE'S NOTHING COMPLICATED ABOUT OPERATING THEM. APRIL FIGURED IT OUT RIGHT AWAY.
WELL, APRIL'S PROBABLY THE ONE PERSON WE KNOW WHO'S EVEN SMARTER THAN YOU, BRO.
YOU SAID IT, RAPH, NOT ME.
WHATEVER. IT WAS YOUR BRIGHT IDEA FOR ALL OF US TO DO WHAT WE DO BEST, AND THIS IS WHAT I DO BEST.
BUT BE A LUDDITE NINJA IF THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY—I'M GONNA DO MY FIGHTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY.
LUD-WHAT?
GUYS! GUYS!
I KNOW WHERE LEO'S GONNA BE! I TOTALLY KNOW!
MIKEY, WHAT'RE YOU JABBERING ABOUT?
AND WHERE'D YOU GET THAT GOOFY HAT?

WOODY WAS HELPIN' ME DO FAKE PIZZA DELIVERIES AND I ENDED UP FINDIN' SOME WHACK DUDES THAT KNEW ABOUT THIS MASSIVE BAD-GUY MEETING COMIN' UP.
SO, AFTER SOME "CONVINCIN'," I GOT 'EM TO TELL ME WHERE AND WHEN IT'S GONNA BE. THEY SAID ALL THE IMPORTANT FOOT GUYS ARE GOIN'—SHREDDER, KARAI, ALOPEX AND...
...LEONARDO.
YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED, MY SONS—YOU HAVE BONDED TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, AND IT APPEARS YOUR COMBINED EFFORTS HAVE PAID OFF.
AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO CALL ON OUR ALLIES FOR THE ADVERSITY TO COME—

"—THE BATTLE TO BRING LEONARDO HOME."
NNNGG...
LOOK THERE, LEONARDO.
MASTER SHREDDER?
LOOK AT THOSE WHO WILL DIE WITH YOU THIS DAY, EXECUTED BY THE VERY CLAN YOU CHOSE TO DISHONOR WITH YOUR BASE TREACHERY.
NOW!
SCHIWP SCHIWP SCHIWP
NOOOO!
TREACHERY? BUT... I DIDN'T BETRAY YOU. I...
WAIT... THIS ISN'T RIGHT. SOMETHING'S CHANGED. THIS IS—

NO.
MY SON, HEAR ME.
M-MOTHER...?
HEAR ME, CHILD... AND SEE...
...THAT THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU.
AND NOW, TRAITOR— TIME TO DIE.
WAIT... MOTHER... I'M NOT—
SCHWP
NO PLACE FOR YOU...

MOTHER!
OH... OH, GOD...
I HEARD YOUR CRY...
...DO YOUR NEW DUTIES *HAUNT* YOU IN YOUR DREAMS?
I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU IN HERE, KARAI.
THAT IS BECAUSE YOU DID NOT. WHEN I HEARD YOUR SHOUT, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE IN DANGER... *CHUNIN.*
YEAH... I'LL BET.
SO, IS EVERYTHING READY FOR THE MASTER'S MEETING?
OF COURSE...


"...ALL PREPARATIONS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS HAVE BEEN MADE."
ALL RIGHT—THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM.
CAN YOU SAY "OVERKILL," FLEABAG?
HEY, YOU GOT *YOUR* METHODS, I GOT *MINE*, TURTLE.
WELL, YOUR METHODS SUCK. JUST SAYIN'.
SAY IT ALL YOU WANT—IT AIN'T NO FUR OFF MY BACK. IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET, WE AIN'T GOIN' TO NO *TEA PARTY* TONIGHT.
RAPHAEL—TONIGHT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO DISMISS ANY ALLY, NO MATTER HOW DISTASTEFUL HIS METHODS.
WE WERE UNABLE TO CHOOSE THE BATTLE...
...*BUT* WE CAN STILL CHOOSE TO WIN.
LOOKS LIKE THE OTHERS ARE DONE LOADING. ALMOST TIME TO GO.
OKAY, I'M GONNA TEXT CASEY REAL QUICK—LET HIM KNOW I'M NOT COMING BY TONIGHT.
YOU KNOW, APRIL—YOU *DON'T* HAVE TO DO THIS.
I *WANT* TO DO THIS, DONNIE. LEO NEEDS ALL OF US, JUST LIKE SPLINTER SAID, AND I ALREADY TOLD HIM I'D STAY IN THE VAN AND AWAY FROM... WELL, FROM WHATEVER HAPPENS.
APRIL O'NEIL—PROFESSIONAL GETAWAY DRIVER.
OKAY... I'M READY.
Casey Jones
Case... Helping Turtles find Leo. Be with U soon!
xoxo
-April

<PLEASE EXCUSE ME, KITSUNE—I HAVE YOUR TEA. MAY I ENTER?>
<YES, ALOPEX, PLEASE DO.>
<I MUST SAY, YOUR JAPANESE IS NEARLY FLAWLESS. I AM IMPRESSED.>
<THANK YOU. I WAS TAUGHT BOTH ENGLISH AND JAPANESE AFTER MY... MY CHANGE.>
<THE MASTER THOUGHT IT WOULD GIVE ME... ER, HIM A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE.>
<A WISE DECISION BY OROKU SAKI, TO BE SURE.>
<I ALSO LEARNED ABOUT YOU DURING THAT TIME—THE GREAT WITCH WHO HELPED LIFT MASTER SHREDDER UP. IT WAS SO EXCITING TO HEAR THOSE STORIES, ESPECIALLY THE PART ABOUT YOU BEING A FOX.>
<IT ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL LESS DIFFERENT AND LESS... ALONE.>
AND YET, TO BE DIFFERENT IS TO OFTEN BE ALONE, IS THAT NOT SO?
YOU... YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? BUT—WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEFORE?
UNTIL NOW, I CHOSE NOT TO.
KNOW THIS, ALOPEX—WE FOXES MUST BE BOTH SLY AND CAUTIOUS, FOR TREACHERY LURKS AROUND EVERY CORNER.
WE MUST ALWAYS KNOW WHEN TO WATCH...
...AND WHEN TO ACT.

APRIL, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
YO, JONES!
LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
WHOA, ANGEL... WHERE'D YOU FIND THAT OLD THING?
NEAR THE SKARA BRAE WHERE YOU AND RAPH GOT JUMPED. BEEN MEANIN' TO BRING IT TO YOU BUT THINGS'VE BEEN KINDA CRAZY.
YOU KNOW, MY OLD MAN SHOWED UP OUTTA THE BLUE AND TRIED TO GIVE ME A NEW MASK. DUDE WAS ALL DRESSED UP SLICK AND TALKIN' LIKE HE'S CLEAN NOW—BUNCHA BULL LIKE THAT.
UH... SOME OF IT AIN'T BULL, MAN. YOUR DAD STOPPED HITTIN' THE BOOZE AND GOT HIMSELF CRAZY RIPPED SOMEHOW. AND HE'S CALLIN' HIMSELF HUN AGAIN.
HUN?!
YEAH—AND HE TOOK OVER THE DRAGONS FROM ME.
MATTER OF FACT, HE'S TAKIN' 'EM ALL TO THIS BIG MEETIN' THE SHREDDER'S HAVIN' TONIGHT—
—SOME KIND OF POWER TRIP TO GET EVERYONE IN THE CITY IN LINE, I GUESS.
WHAT?
C'MON, ANGEL, WE'RE... UNF... OUTTA HERE.
CASEY, YOU AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE UP—WHAT THE HELL YOU DOIN'?
HELPIN'... ERG... MY FRIENDS. APRIL TEXTED ME THAT SOMETHIN' WAS UP WITH LEO. THIS MEETIN' MUST BE IT AND I GOT A BAD FEELIN', 'SPECIALLY IF MY DAD'S IN THE MIX.
THAT CHUMP CAN POUND ON ME ALL HE WANTS...

"...BUT I'LL NEVER LET HIM HURT MY *FAMILY*."
"AN ABANDONED THEATER? WHAT'S SHREDDER GOT EVERYONE HERE FOR?"
A SOLD-OUT SHOW, FROM THE LOOKS OF ALL THE *GOONS* OUTSIDE THE PLACE.
YOU AREN'T KIDDING. TOSS A ROCK AND YOU'RE BOUND TO HIT A PSYCHOTIC STOOGE.
GOOD THING WE AIN'T PLANNIN' ON TOSSIN' NO ROCKS, AM I RIGHT?
SPEAKIN' OF PSYCHOS...
WELL, ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO BEFORE SHOW TIME.
GEAR UP.
NOW *THAT'S* WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT, BOYS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. YOU WERE *WISE* TO ACCEPT MY INVITATION.
I AM *THE SHREDDER*, LEADER OF THE FOOT CLAN.
AND, AS OF TONIGHT...
...*MASTER* OF YOU ALL.
IF THIS SURPRISES YOU, IT SHOULD NOT. OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, MY FOOT NINJA HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THIS CITY—STREET BY STREET, BOROUGH BY BOROUGH—ANNIHILATING *ALL* WHO STOOD IN MY WAY...
...UNTIL ONLY *ONE GROUP* REMAINED THAT WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO OPPOSE MY INEVITABLE RULE—
THE *SAVATE*.
YOU... YOU BASTARD...

AS YOU CAN SEE, THEIR PATHETIC RESISTANCE, TOO, HAS BEEN CRUSHED—THIS VISION OF UTTER DEFEAT SHOULD SERVE AS FAIR WARNING TO ANY WHO WOULD DARE DEFY ME IN THE FUTURE.
AND YET, I FEEL ADDITIONAL EMPHASIS IS NECESSARY WHEN DELIVERING SUCH AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE.
AFTER ALL, MERE WORDS ARE A POOR SUBSTITUTE...
KILL YOU...
HEAR ME, MY CHILD... AND SEE...
MOTHER?
SEE THAT THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU.
...FOR ACTION!
SCHWP
NO.
"THE TIME HAS COME TO SAVE LEONARDO..."

...WE CAN WAIT NO LONGER.
MUSIC TO MY EARS, RAT.
WHUM
KA-BOOM
WELL, WHAT'RE YOU *WAITIN'* FOR? HAVE FUN, BIG FELLA.
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
GRRAAAGH!
DAMN STRAIGHT, YOU ARE!
FWUP
WE MUST BREACH THE BUILDING QUICKLY, MY SONS.
ON IT!

KRAWOOM
SO... WE HAVE UNINVITED GUESTS.
DESTROY THEM OR MEET VICTOR'S SAME FATE!
LET'S GO, BOYS!
IT APPEARS THAT A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF MY POWER IS IN ORDER.
M-MOTHER...
LEONARDO...?
WHAT HAS POSSESSED YOU?
IT IS AS I HAVE TOLD YOU, MASTER—
—WHENEVER DEATH APPEARS, YOUR PRECIOUS CHUNIN DISAPPEARS.
KRRSH
SAK!! I HAVE RETURNED FOR MY SON! AND THIS TIME...
...I WILL NOT LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED!

WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?!
DUNNO! ALLA SUDDEN WE GOT ATTACKED BY SOME GIANT MONSTER AND SOME MANIAC TAKIN' POTSHOTS!
GIMME THAT!
I'LL SHOW YOU WIMPS HOW IT'S DONE.
FIRST THE SNIPER TWERP...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
GYAH!
...AND THEN THE JUMBO JERK.
KRAK
WHA-?!
I DON'T THINK SO...
...DAD.

AGH!
YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS INSOLENCE!
UFF!
LEONARDO, YOU FOOL! KILL THEM!
Y-YES, MASTER.
OH... CRUD.
RAH!
SHWIP
LEO, STOP!
WE DON'T WANNA HURT YOU!
WHUF!
NO? WELL, I WANNA HURT YOU.
SHINK
NO...

THUMP
...YOU DON'T!
TRUST ME ON THAT.
R... RAPH?
YEAH, BRO.
NO!
NO! THIS IS ALL WRONG!
ALL WRONG!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO LEO, GUYS!
YES—WE MUST REMOVE HIM FROM THIS PLACE, MY SONS! NOW!
ALL WRONG...
I GOT LEO! YOU GUYS MAKE A HOLE!
...MOTHER... ALL WRONG...
NO PROBLEM!

THEY ARE ESCAPING!
WHERE THE DEVIL IS KARAI?!
I AM HERE, GRANDFATHER...
FWP
OKAY— THIS IS A PROBLEM!
THUK
...AND TONIGHT BELONGS TO THE FOOT!
YEAH...
...WHAT SHE SAID.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by IAN HERRING

art by TYLER WALPOLE

SHREDDER

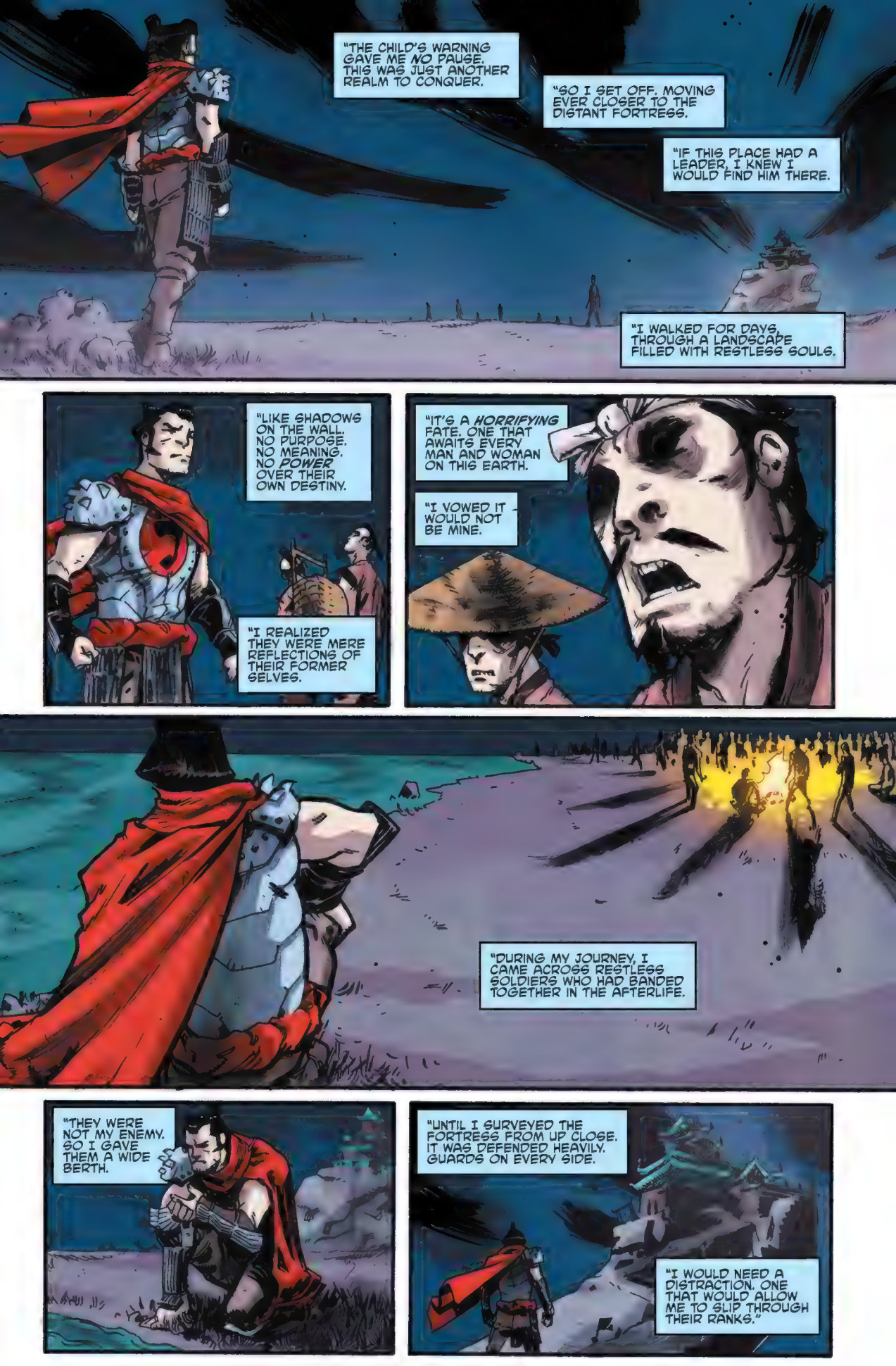
THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF THE TURTLES FOR DAYS, OR THE RAT. WE'LL KEEP LOOKING.
AND IN THE MEANTIME...
"...WE GROW MORE POWERFUL. WE TIGHTEN OUR GRIP ON THIS CITY, MORE AND MORE WITH EACH PASSING DAY.
"WE HAVE MORE MEN. MORE RESOURCES. MORE BRUTE FORCE THAN EVER BEFORE.
"OF COURSE WE'VE HAD CASUALTIES, BUT THIS IS INEVITABLE IN WAR. EVERYONE DIES SOMETIME.
"WELL..."

...MOST EVERYONE.
WE'RE DONE.
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE, KITSUNE?
EVERY TIME SOMEONE ALLUDES TO YOUR... UNIQUE HISTORY, YOU —
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
—END THE CONVERSATION.

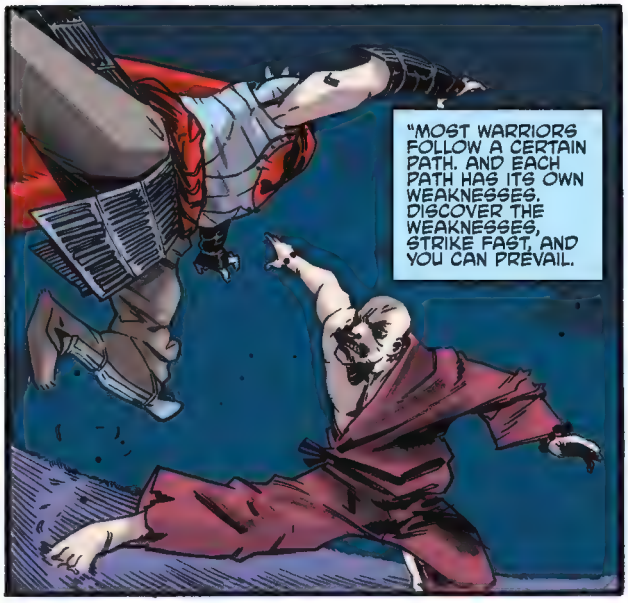
I'VE TRIED TO LEARN WHY. BUT YOU WON'T TALK ABOUT IT.
AS IS MY CHOICE.
AND BEFORE, IT WAS A HARMLESS CHOICE. BUT NOW YOUR POWER HAS GROWN.
THIS SECRET—IT *WEAKENS* YOU.
ALL THOSE CENTURIES AGO, BEFORE MY DEATH... YOU SAID I WOULD BE RESURRECTED, BONDED TO THE SAME BODY.
BUT YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHERE MY SPIRIT WOULD GO.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW.
SO TELL ME, OROKU SAKI...
...WHERE DID YOU GO?

"WHERE EVERYONE GOES, WHEN THEIR MORTAL JOURNEY DRAWS TO A CLOSE.
"I WAS JUST THERE A BIT EARLY."

OH! GOOD.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
THIS... THIS IS...
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
THAT'S THE BIG QUESTION. ISN'T IT?
THIS PLACE IS FOR THE DEAD. EVERYONE ELSE HERE IS A PERMANENT RESIDENT. BUT NOT YOU. YOU'RE JUST PASSING THROUGH, IN BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TO WARN YOU—DO *NOT* DISTURB THE NATURAL ORDER OF THIS PLACE.
LET THOSE WHO LIVE HERE TRY TO FIND SOME MEASURE OF PEACE. OTHERWISE, YOUR LIFE WILL BE TRULY EXTINGUISHED. FOREVER. NO MORE RESURRECTIONS. NO MORE CHEATING DEATH.
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE MY SOUL?
OH, NO. THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS. WE CAN'T *TAKE* YOUR SOUL...
...BUT YOU CAN *GIVE* IT TO US.

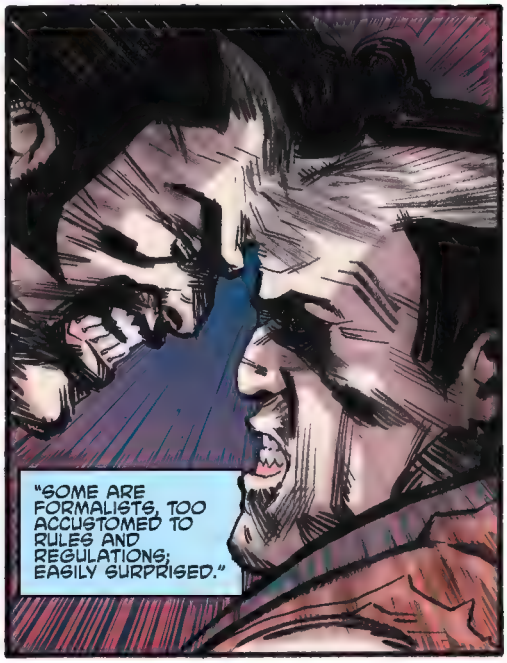

"THE CHILD'S WARNING GAVE ME NO PAUSE. THIS WAS JUST ANOTHER REALM TO CONQUER.
"SO I SET OFF. MOVING EVER CLOSER TO THE DISTANT FORTRESS.
"IF THIS PLACE HAD A LEADER, I KNEW I WOULD FIND HIM THERE.
"I WALKED FOR DAYS, THROUGH A LANDSCAPE FILLED WITH RESTLESS SOULS.
"LIKE SHADOWS ON THE WALL. NO PURPOSE. NO MEANING. NO POWER OVER THEIR OWN DESTINY.
"I REALIZED THEY WERE MERE REFLECTIONS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES.
"IT'S A HORRIFYING FATE. ONE THAT AWAITS EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ON THIS EARTH.
"I VOWED IT WOULD NOT BE MINE.
"DURING MY JOURNEY, I CAME ACROSS RESTLESS SOLDIERS WHO HAD BANDED TOGETHER IN THE AFTERLIFE.
"THEY WERE NOT MY ENEMY. SO I GAVE THEM A WIDE BERTH.
"UNTIL I SURVEYED THE FORTRESS FROM UP CLOSE. IT WAS DEFENDED HEAVILY. GUARDS ON EVERY SIDE.
"I WOULD NEED A DISTRACTION. ONE THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO SLIP THROUGH THEIR RANKS."

"SO I RETURNED TO THE WARRIOR BAND, BELIEVING THAT I COULD APPEAL TO THEIR THIRST FOR GLORY BY TELLING THEM OF THE GREAT VICTORY THAT AWAITED.
"THEY FELL UPON ME IMMEDIATELY. AS I KNEW THEY WOULD.


"MOST WARRIORS FOLLOW A CERTAIN PATH. AND EACH PATH HAS ITS OWN WEAKNESSES. DISCOVER THE WEAKNESSES, STRIKE FAST, AND YOU CAN PREVAIL.

"SOME FIGHT LOW TO THE GROUND, EXPOSING THE FACE TO AN EASY ATTACK.

"SOME ONLY WORK IN CLOSE QUARTERS, ALLOWING THEIR OPPONENT TO SIMPLY STEP BACK AND STRIKE.


"SOME ARE FORMALISTS, TOO ACCUSTOMED TO RULES AND REGULATIONS; EASILY SURPRISED."

"STILL... MOST WARRIORS WILL ADAPT. GIVE THEM ENOUGH TIME AND THEY WILL CHANGE TACTICS, AS THE BATTLE DEMANDS.
"BUT THESE WARRIORS DID NOT. THEY FOUGHT MINDLESSLY.
"THEIR ONLY ADVANTAGES WERE SHEER NUMBERS—
"—AND PURE FEROCITY."

"I FELT MY RIBS CRACK. I FELT THE AIR LEAVE MY LUNGS.
"BUT I SET ASIDE THE PAIN."

"THE BATTLE WAS NOT YET OVER."

"WHEN I SAW ALL THOSE WARRIORS RAIN DOWN FROM ABOVE, I KNEW THAT I MUST CHANGE MY PLANS.
"I WOULD NOT GAIN THEIR RESPECT BY FIGHTING BACK. A CALL TO *VICTORY* WOULD FALL ON DEAF EARS.
"THEY MAY HAVE BEEN WARRIORS IN LIFE, BUT IN DEATH, THEY WERE JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER RESTLESS SOUL.
"GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS, ACTING OUT THE ROLES THEY HAD PLAYED IN LIFE.
"THEY HAD NO DESIRE TO CONQUER. NO THIRST FOR VICTORY. NO LEADERS, NO TACTICS, NO PLAN.
"THEY WANTED ONE THING— TO *FIGHT*. MINDLESSLY. ENDLESSLY."
ENOUGH!

YOU CAN FIGHT ME. MAYBE EVEN DEFEAT ME. AND THEN?
IT WILL BE OVER. AND YOU'LL BE LEFT WHERE I FOUND YOU. WITH NO ENEMY. WITH NO BATTLE.
OR YOU CAN FOLLOW ME... AND BATTLE AN *ARMY*.

WHEN I ARRIVED HERE, THEY TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS A PLACE OF PEACE.

DO YOU *FEEL* PEACEFUL?

YOU'RE *WARRIORS!* YOU ARE MADE TO FIGHT! SO FOLLOW ME INTO BATTLE.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE VICTORY.
BUT I CAN GUARANTEE YOU THIS—
THERE WILL BE NO REST.
THERE WILL BE *NO WRETCHED PEACE!*

"I HAD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY WARRIORS' ZEAL.
"TO LET THEM SERVE AS A DISTRACTION, WHILE I SLIPPED THROUGH THE RANKS AND MADE MY WAY TO THE CASTLE.
"THERE WAS NO TIME TO ANALYZE THESE DEMONS' FIGHTING STYLE, OR DETERMINE THEIR WEAKNESSES.
"BUT WHEN IN DOUBT...
"...AIM FOR THE EYES."

"ONCE I WAS INSIDE, THE PATH WAS CLEAR. THE RESTLESS ARMY HAD DRAWN ALL OF THE DEMON GUARDS OUTSIDE.

"I WAS SO CLOSE. SOON I WOULD CONQUER. SOON I WOULD *RULE*.
"ONLY THE KING ON HIS THRONE STOOD IN MY WAY.

"I WAS SO CERTAIN OF THIS.
"THAT VICTORY WAS WITHIN MY REACH.

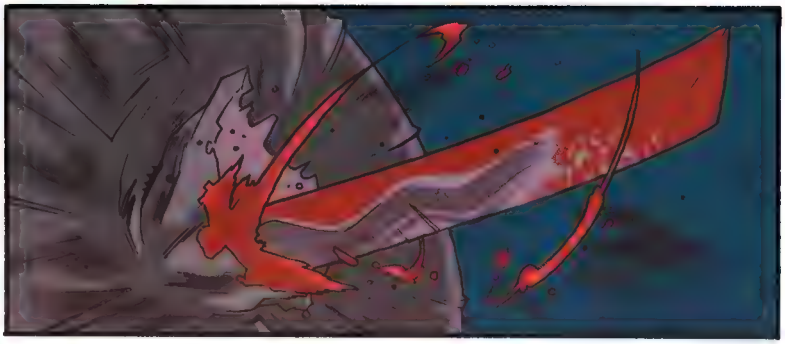
"WHEN THEIR KING ROSE, HE DID SO SLOWLY. UNSTEADILY."

"MAKE NO MISTAKE: HE WAS A SKILLED COMBATANT, AND STRONG AS AN OX.
"BUT HIS ARMOR WAS BULKY, AND HIS BREATHING WAS HEAVY.
"HE WAS AN OLD MAN. A ONCE-PROUD WARRIOR, NOW PAST HIS PRIME.
"SO I LET HIM WEAR HIMSELF OUT...
"CERTAIN THAT I COULD KEEP HIM DOWN."

CERTAIN...
...SO CERTAIN I WOULD DEFEAT YOU. THAT I WOULD RULE... FOREVER.

AND NOW...

...DO IT!

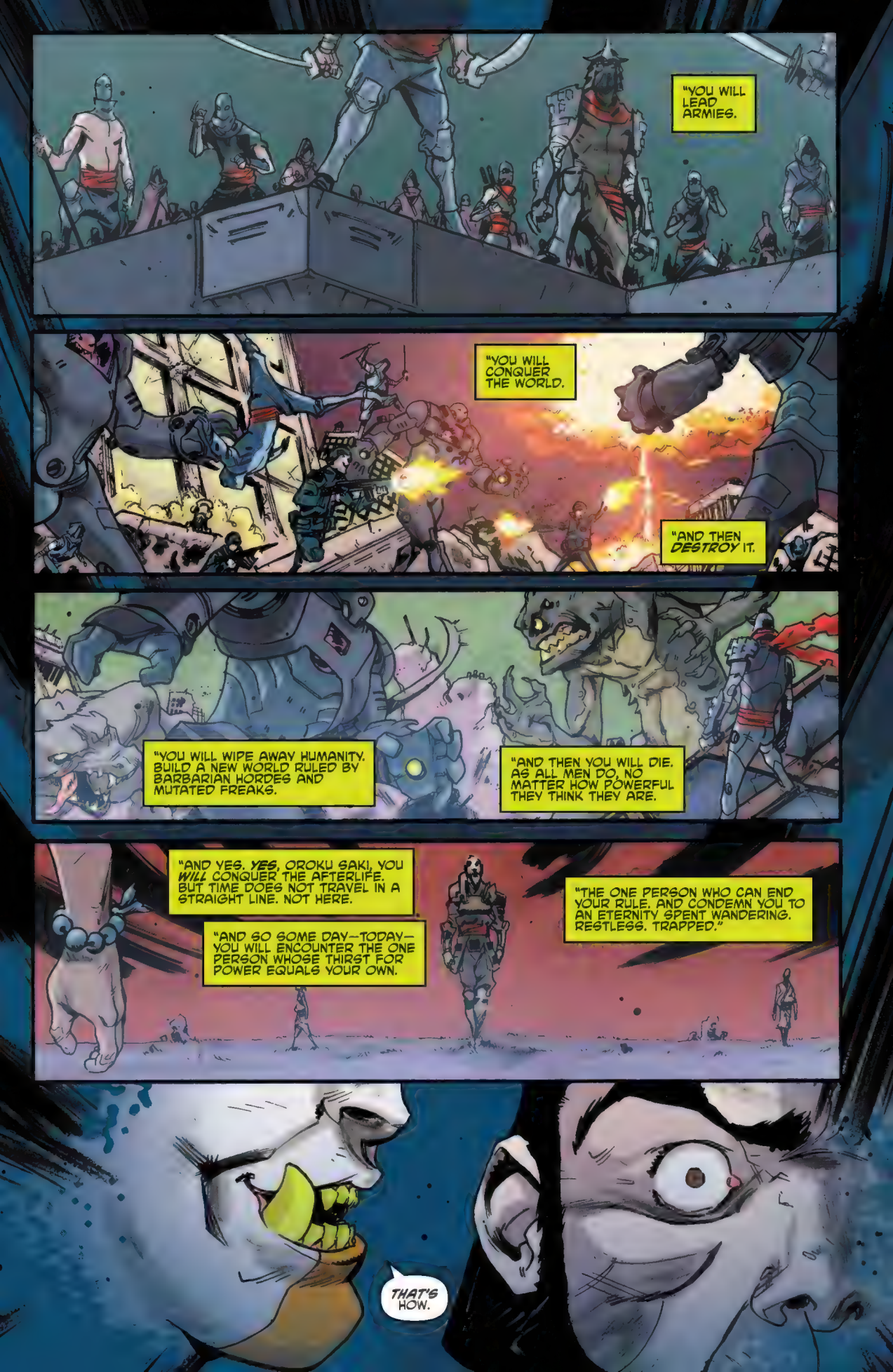


THERE'S YOUR KING!
"I *WON*. AS I KNEW I WOULD. THE VERY NOTION THAT I COULD BE DEFEATED WAS LAUGHABLE.

"AND THEN..."

"...I SAW THE FACE OF MY ENEMY.
"IT WAS *ME*."
THANK YOU.

HOW? HOW?
HOW? OH, SAKI. DID YOU ACTUALLY THINK YOU WERE *SPECIAL?* THAT YOU COULD CHEAT DEATH *FOREVER?*
LET ME *TELL* YOU WHAT YOUR FUTURE HOLDS.


"YOU WILL LEAD ARMIES.
"YOU WILL CONQUER THE WORLD.
"AND THEN *DESTROY* IT.
"YOU WILL WIPE AWAY HUMANITY. BUILD A NEW WORLD RULED BY BARBARIAN HORDES AND MUTATED FREAKS.
"AND THEN YOU WILL DIE. AS ALL MEN DO, NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THEY THINK THEY ARE.
"AND YES. *YES*, OROKU SAKI, YOU *WILL* CONQUER THE AFTERLIFE. BUT TIME DOES NOT TRAVEL IN A STRAIGHT LINE. NOT HERE.
"AND SO SOME DAY--TODAY--YOU WILL ENCOUNTER THE ONE PERSON WHOSE THIRST FOR POWER EQUALS YOUR OWN.
"THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN END YOUR RULE. AND CONDEMN YOU TO AN ETERNITY SPENT WANDERING. RESTLESS. TRAPPED."
THAT'S HOW.

AND YOU KNOW THE REST. KARAI RESURRECTED ME. AT FIRST I REMEMBERED NONE OF THIS.
BUT SLOWLY... IT CAME BACK TO ME. PIECE BY PIECE. ALL OF IT.

SO, YES. THE CITY IS MINE.
BUT WHAT'S A CITY, COMPARED TO ETERNITY?
SAKI... YOU HAVE A POWERFUL MIND. THIS WAS CERTAINLY JUST A DREAM. A LESSON YOU WERE TEACHING YOURSELF.

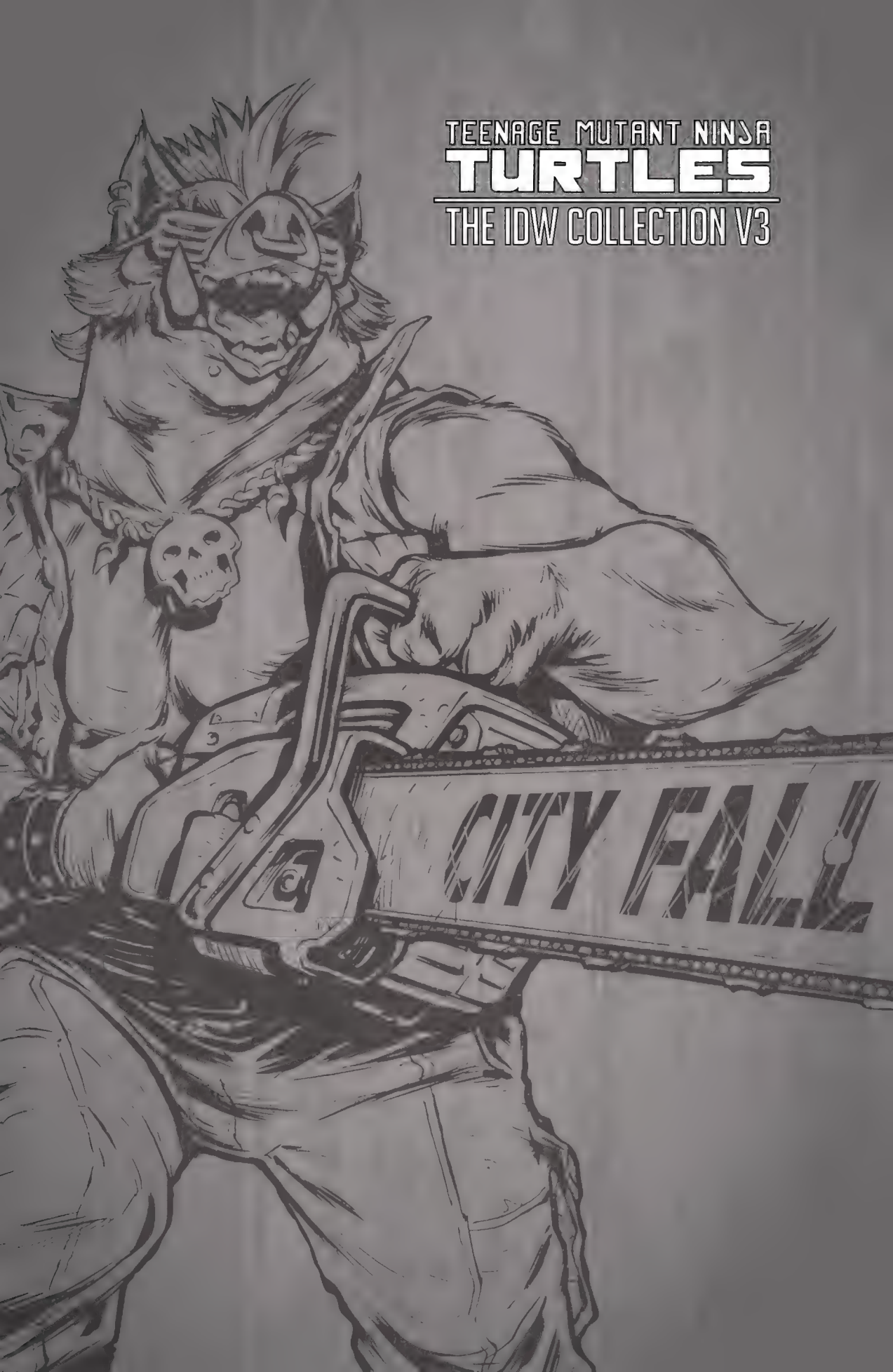
IT'S A LESSON YOU SHOULD TAKE TO HEART. BUT NOT ONE THAT SHOULD OVERSHADOW YOUR LIFE.

...
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COUNSEL.
OF COURSE.

I AM ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU.

I HAVEN'T TOLD HER THE WHOLE STORY.
I HAVEN'T SAID THAT IT WASN'T JUST THE LONG SLEEP. IT'S *EVERY* SLEEP. EVERY NIGHT. EVERY DAY. SOMETIMES JUST WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES.
I SEE HIM.
HE'S THERE. ALWAYS. A CONSTANT REMINDER OF WHAT AWAITS.
NO. WHAT *COULD* AWAIT. THE DEMONS MADE A MISTAKE IN TELLING ME WHAT'S TO COME.
NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT'S COMING, I'LL DO IT *RIGHT*. I'LL BECOME STRONGER. *MORE* POWERFUL.
AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL *CONQUER*. I WILL GUT MY YOUNGER SELF LIKE A FISH. I WILL TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB. I WILL BURN HIM DOWN, AND SPREAD HIS ASHES ACROSS MY KINGDOM.
I WILL CONQUER.
AS I ALWAYS DO.
THE END.

art by DAN DUNCAN


TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
THE IDW COLLECTION V3
CITY FALL

VIOLENCE AND CARNAGE RAGE ACROSS THE CITY AS SHREDDER'S MASTER PLAN UNFOLDS. WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES THE TURTLES, THE BROTHERS WILL HAVE TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST AN ATTACK FROM WITHIN, BUT WITH OLD ALLEGIANCES SHIFTING THEY MUST NOW FORMULATE A PLAN TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THEIR DEADLIEST ENEMY.

VOLUME 3 COLLECTS ISSUES #21–28 OF THE ***TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES*** *ONGOING SERIES AND THE* ***OLD HOB, ALOPEX, KARAI, HUN, BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY,*** *AND* ***SHREDDER MICRO-SERIES*** *ONE-SHOTS, PLUS THE* ***2012 ANNUAL.***

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

ISSUE #28

WHAM
KRRSH
CHOKK
FWAP

AWWW, CHECK 'ÉM OUT...
...THEY LOOK SO SAD, ROCKSTEADY.
YEAH...
...ALMOST LIKE THESE CHUMPS AIN'T TOO HAPPY TO SEE US, HUH, BEBOP?
CITY FALL
Part SEVEN

THAT ANY WAY TO GREET YOUR OLD MAN? POINTIN' THAT BAT AT ME LIKE YOU WANNA BUST MY SKULL OPEN?
I AIN'T GONNA LIE TO YOU, CASEY—THAT HURTS.
SHUT UP, DAD—I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT. I PUT UP WITH YOUR CRAP FOR YEARS.
HURT? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HURT MEANS.
YER DEAD WRONG, KID. I KNOW FROM HURT—ALL *KINDS* OF DAMN HURT. SO MUCH, I TRIED FOR YEARS TO DROWN IT ALL DOWN. BUT ALL THAT DID WAS MAKE MORE HURT—FOR ME, FOR YOUR MOM...
...AND, YEAH, FOR YOU.
I KNOW I HURT YOU, CASE, AND, I'M SORRY, I CAN'T CHANGE THAT—WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. BUT NOW I GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.
NO MORE BOOZIN', NO MORE FEELIN' SORRY FOR MYSELF. ONLY RESPECT...
...AND *POWER!*
COME ON, CASEY... BE SMART HERE. IT CAN BE ALL OURS—MINE AND YOURS. THE JONES BOYS...
...A FAMILY AGAIN.

YEAH? WELL, HERE'S A NEWSFLASH FOR YOU, OLD MAN. I AIN'T NEVER BEEN MUCH FOR SMARTS...
...AND I GOT MYSELF A WHOLE NEW FAMILY!
FWAPP
GNH!
HEH. THAT'S MY BOY... JUST LIKE I TAUGHT YA—HIT FAST AND HIT HARD. NO LITTLE GIRL'S TOOTHPICKS FOR YOU.
Y'KNOW, CASEY, YOUR MOUTH IS SAYIN' YOU GOT A NEW FAMILY, BUT YOUR FIGHT?
YOUR FIGHT'S TELLIN' ME YER A CHIP OFF THE OL' JONES BLOCK, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

KARAI, WHO—?
MUTANTS, GRANDFATHER—HYBRIDS OF MY MAKING.
CULLED FROM WITHIN OUR RANKS AND DESIGNED TO SERVE THE FOOT. LOYALLY...
"...AND WILLINGLY."
MOTHER?
YO, ROCK! THESE DUDES GOT HARD CANDY SHELLS.
LET'S CRACK 'EM OPEN AND SEE WHAT KINDA GOODIES ARE INSIDE.
UH-OH.
YAGH!
SKASH
HA! HE SWINGS, HE MISSES!
NO WAY! TOTALLY A FOUL TIP.
HRF!

MY SONS, WE MUST GET TO LEONARDO!
WISH SOMEONE'D TELL THAT TO THESE TWO UGLY CREEPS.
KRAK
WHOA!
WHO'S HE CALLIN' UGLY?
TELL ME... HRK... 'BOUT IT! AIN'T THESE... GUFF... TWERPS SEEN THEMSELVES?
WHOMP
GOT 'IM! I GOT 'IM!
OR NOT!
I MEAN, I THOUGHT THE RATS IN OUR OLD APARTMENT WERE NASTY...
...BUT THIS GUY? YUCK.
YA DON'T THINK HE'S GOT RABIES, DO YA?
PROB'LY...

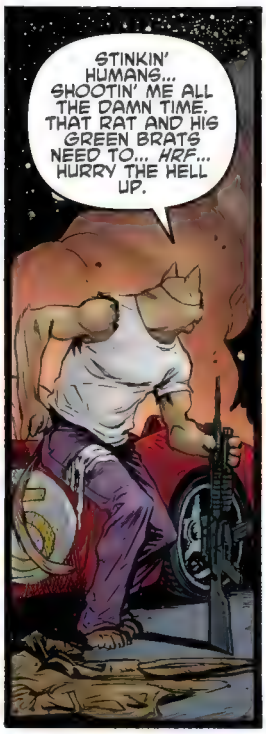
...JUST DON'T GET ANY OF HIS BLOOD ON YA!
SHUNK
AIN'T THIS THE TURTLE DORK WE RUMBLED WITH BEFORE, BOPSTER?
YEAH, THAT'S HIM—FROM THAT TIME WITH ALOPEX.*
*See Raphael Microseries – B.C.
KRAK
THOUGHT SO. GUESS HE FIGURED HE COULD TAKE US AGAIN, HUH?
'CEPT NOW HE'S TANGLIN' WITH SUPER BAD-ASS MUTANTS.
YEP. SUCKS TO BE HIM.
CLANG
BUFFOONS!

STOP TOYING WITH THE SCUM AND FINISH THEM!
AW, MAN—THIS WAS JUST STARTIN' TO GET FUN.
I HEAR YA, PAL, BUT KARAI SIGNS OUR PAYCHECKS, AND SHE SAYS IT'S KILLIN' TIME.
WAIT—WE GET PAYCHECKS?
LAST CALL, FELLAS. DIDN'T EXPECT NO KICK-BUTT SECRET WEAPONS LIKE US TO CRASH THE PARTY, DIDJA?
WHOOM
GOOD THING WE HAVE A SECRET WEAPON OF OUR OWN.
APRIL?! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP BETA-TESTING HAROLD'S GEAR. SEEMS TO WORK GREAT, HUH?
Y-YEAH... IT DOES.

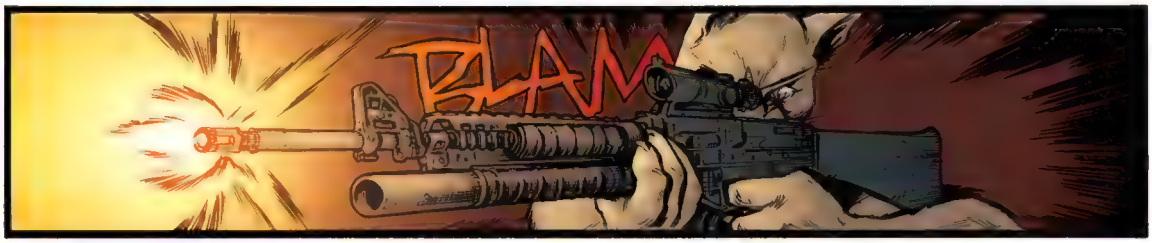
RAPHAEL— QUICKLY!
COMIN'!
CHUNIN, LOOK AROUND YOU—OUR ENEMY THRIVES ON YOUR HESITATION! TRUE STRENGTH COMES FROM THE WILL TO STRIKE QUICKLY AND WITHOUT MERCY—
—HAVE YOU LEARNED NOTHING?!
WH-WHERE IS... MOTHER?
RECOVER YOUR WITS, DAMN YOU!
SMAK
NOW RISE AND BECOME THE WARRIOR YOU ARE *MEANT* TO BE.
YOU DO NOT TOUCH MY SON, DEVIL...
...EVER.
"SO, THIS IS WHAT IT'S COME TO, HUH?"

MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, DON'T IT? HITTIN' ME?
S'OKAY. I GET IT. BUT I'M STRONGER NOW... BETTER. YER GONNA HAFTA UP YOUR GAME.
YEAH? THEN HOW 'BOUT...
KE-KRAK
...THIS?!
NOPE— THAT AIN'T GONNA DO IT NEITHER.
Y-YOU DUMB GOON. YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR.
ALL I KNOW'S THE FOOT'S THE BEST THING THAT COULDA HAPPENED TO ME.
BROUGHT ME OUTTA HELL... GAVE ME A SECOND CHANCE TO BE A GOOD DAD TO YOU.
AND I'M GONNA MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, SON, ONE WAY OR ANOTH—
—GAH!
BASTARD!
FWAWK
HRK!
BIG MISTAKE, GIRL.
WHAM
NOW, YOU BE A GOOD LITTLE KIDDIE...

"...AND STAY DOWN."
ALL RIGHT... UNF... PAYBACK TIME.


STINKIN' HUMANS... SHOOTIN' ME ALL THE DAMN TIME. THAT RAT AND HIS GREEN BRATS NEED TO... HRF... HURRY THE HELL UP.

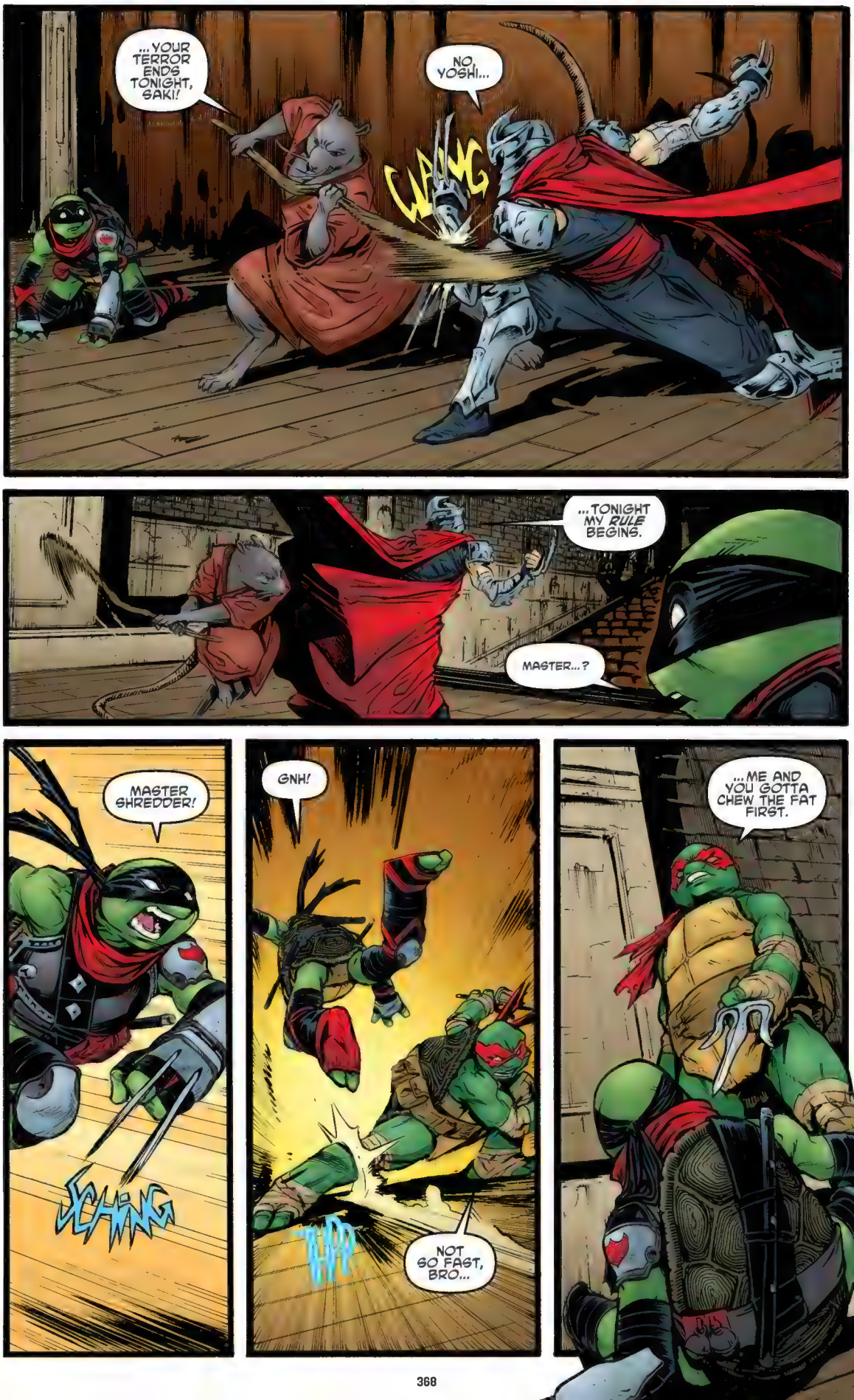
WE'LL CONTINUE OUR HEART-TO-HEART IN JUST A SEC, CASE. GOTTA TAKE CARE OF THIS NUISANCE FIRST.
NO...


BLAM

NYUH!
FWMP

WHOP
UFF!

DAMMIT, CASEY, YER BLEEDIN' LIKE A STUCK PIG. KNOCK THIS CRAP OFF.
N-NO...
DON'T BE STUPID, KID. I'M STILL ON YER SIDE.
DAD... YOU WERE NEVER ON MY SIDE.
WHOA—!
FWAM
BUT APPARENTLY YOU ARE.
BAD DRAGON MAN.
YO, ANGEL— YOU OKAY?
YEAH, GOOD TO GO.
BUT, MAN, YOUR STITCHES ARE BROKE. I TOLD YOU NOT TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL, YOU BIG DUMMY.
HEH. YEAH, WELL...
"... TOTALLY WORTH IT."
NNNGG...
"YOU WILL HARM MY FAMILY NO FURTHER, DEMON..."


...YOUR TERROR ENDS TONIGHT, SAKI!
NO, YOSHI...
CLANG
...TONIGHT MY RULE BEGINS.
MASTER...?
MASTER SHREDDER!
CLANG
GNH!
NOT SO FAST, BRO...
...ME AND YOU GOTTA CHEW THE FAT FIRST.

ROCK, I THINK THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED BY A REALLY MAD GHOST.
WHY'S HE MAD AT *US*?
I LOOK LIKE SOME SORTA GHOST EXPERT TO YOU?!
IDIOTS! ON YOUR FEET!
OH, CRUD, THE PSYCHO SAFARI TWINS ARE GETTIN' UP...

...WHAT DO WE DO *NOW*, DONNIE?!
KLAK
HOW MUCH JUICE YOU GOT LEFT IN YOUR GEAR, APRIL?!
DUNNO— MAYBE *FIVE MINUTES WORTH* AT BEST.

WELL, THEN I GUESS WE BETTER MAKE THE *MOST* OF THOSE FIVE MINUTES...

"...AND PRAY FATHER AND RAPH DO THE SAME."
FOOL. YOU WILL DIE FOR THAT.
SEE, NOW, I'M GONNA HAVE TO ASK YOU TO CHANGE YOUR TONE, MAN.
YOU SOUND JUST LIKE THAT CHUMP SHREDDER RIGHT NOW, AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT AIN'T REALLY YOUR THING, BRO.

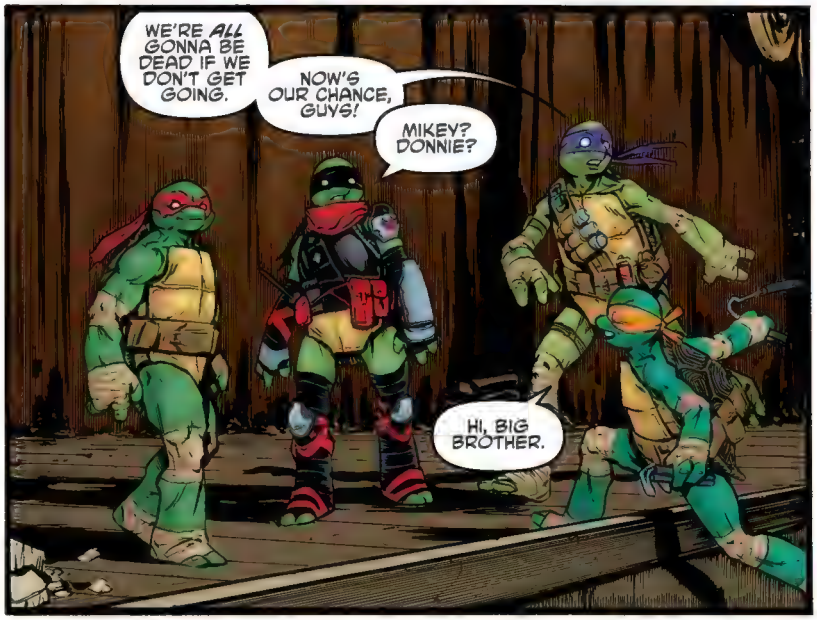
YOU KNOW *NOTHING* ABOUT ME!
NAH, ACTUALLY, I KNOW A *LOT*.
HLAWG

RAH!
I KNOW THE ONLY THING YOU LIKE MORE THAN TRAININ' IS GETTIN' READY FOR TRAININ'.
SWIIIP
HYAH!
I KNOW YOU SECRETLY NAMED YOUR SWORDS MUSASHI AND KAMIIZUMI.
GRAR!
I KNOW YOU AVOID PLAYIN' VIDEO GAMES WITH MIKEY 'CAUSE YOU HATE GETTIN' BEAT BY HIM EVERY TIME.
I ESPECIALLY KNOW THAT IF YOU WERE *REALLY* YOURSELF RIGHT NOW, I'D *NEVER* BE ABLE TO DO THIS.
FWP
WHA-?
AND I KNOW I AIN'T GONNA FIGHT YOU NO MORE.
TUK
YOU'RE FEELIN' LOST AND ALONE. I GET IT. BUT WE'RE YOUR FAMILY, AND WE WANNA TAKE YOU HOME.
AND YOU'RE GONNA COME, 'CAUSE DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW...
...THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU.
MOTHER?

LOOK, YOSHI—WATCH AS YOUR MOMENTARY ADVANTAGE QUICKLY SLIPS AWAY...
"...AND BECOMES MY ULTIMATE TRIUMPH."
WE WERE CLAN BROTHERS ONCE—I, YOUR CLAN LEADER. BUT YOU DEFIED MY WILL AND BETRAYED MY TRUST AND, IN DOING SO, DISHONORED THE FOOT.
HNF!
FLAK
THE FOOT WAS YOUR FAMILY, YOSHI—BEFORE TANG SHEN AND BEFORE THESE ABOMINATIONS YOU CALL YOUR CHILDREN.
GYAAGH!
CRNCH
AND I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR FORSAKING US.

YOU!
HRF!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FAMILY! ONLY HOW TO KILL AND DESTROY!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OF FAMILY?!
YOU'RE A MONSTER!
I TRUSTED YOU!
YAARP!
FWIK
TRAITOROUS CUR.

RAPH... IS THAT... IS THAT YOU?
YEAH, BRO—IT'S ME.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE... DEAD.


WE'RE *ALL* GONNA BE DEAD IF WE DON'T GET GOING.
NOW'S OUR CHANCE, GUYS!
MIKEY? DONNIE?
HI, BIG BROTHER.

HOW...?

GUYS, THAT'S IT FOR THE BATTERY!

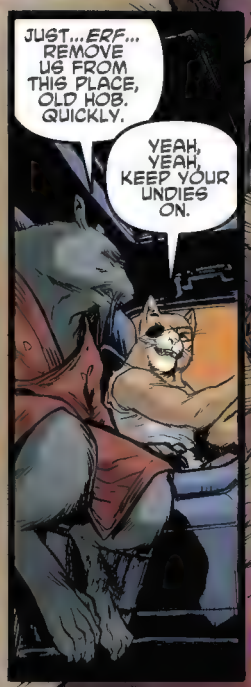
OH, MAN, FATHER— YOUR LEG...
IS... BADLY BROKEN, MY SON.
FATHER, LEAN ON ME.

KRAWHAM

GUYS, TIME TO GO!
HURRY!

SLASH! LOVE THAT MOVE, BIG GUY! JUST IN TIME TO HELP ME WITH FATHER!
I GOT LEO!
COME ON, APRIL!

'BOUT STINKIN' TIME! ME AND SLASH HAD THINGS CLEANED UP OUT HERE WAY BEFORE NOW.


JUST...ERF... REMOVE US FROM THIS PLACE, OLD HOB. QUICKLY.
YEAH, YEAH, KEEP YOUR UNDIES ON.

NOT SO FAST, DWEEBS!
WE AIN'T DONE YET!
CRASSHed

GUN IT, HOB!
YOUSE AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY SO EASY!
÷SNORT!÷
YEP...
CLICK
...WE ARE.
BWOOM
OHH... I THINK I BROKE MY SPLEEN...
WE STILL GONNA GET A PAYCHECK?

LATER.
HERE IS OUR TRIBUTE TO YOU, SHREDDER, AS YOU REQUESTED. WE HOPE WE CAN PUT THE SAVATE FIASCO BEHIND US AND MOVE FORWARD IN A MORE COOPERATIVE FASHION.
EXCELLENT. IN TIME, I'M CONFIDENT YOU WILL FIND THIS TO BE A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR ALL INVOLVED, ANTONIO.
YOU ARE DISMISSED.
KARAI, I WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU NOW.
MASTER, THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF THE TURTLES OR ALOPEX. WE WILL CONTINUE TO—
SILENCE.
YOU HAVE CREATED MUTANTS WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE. YOU HAVE ACTED INDEPENDENTLY OF MY WILL AND DISOBEYED MY AUTHORITY.
THIS GROSS INSUBORDINATION IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.
DO YOU DENY IT?
I... I DO NOT.
BUT ALL I DID, I DID IN THE NAME OF THE FOOT.
EVERYTHING I DO... I DO TO HONOR THE CLAN.
I ACCEPT MY FATE.
VERY WELL.
RISE...
... CHUNIN.

MASTER...?
THESE PAST MONTHS I SOUGHT TO WREST CONTROL OF THIS CITY FROM THE PATHETIC VERMIN WHO SQUANDERED THE POWER THEY HELD.
LEONARDO SERVED AS A *PSYCHOLOGICAL WEAPON* IN MY WAR—A *REMINDER* OF THE POWER I HOLD OVER MAN AND MUTANT.
I HAD ALSO HOPED TO USE HIM TO FINALLY RID THIS WORLD OF HAMATO YOSHI. ALTHOUGH I *FAILED IN THIS*, THE DAMAGE I HAVE DONE TO YOSHI'S FAMILY WILL REMAIN.
BUT THESE WERE NOT THE ONLY REASONS I MADE LEONARDO MY *CHUNIN*. I ALSO DID IT TO TEST YOU, KARAI.
I NEEDED TO KNOW *IF* YOU WERE TRULY WORTHY OF BEING MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND—OF RULING THIS CITY IN MY STEAD WHILE I FOCUS MY ENERGIES ELSEWHERE.
ME?
YOU REMAINED LOYAL THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT TRIALS, DISPLAYING CUNNING, TENACITY, AND PATIENCE AT EVERY TURN. I SOUGHT THE VERY BEST IN YOU...
...AND YOU DID NOT DISAPPOINT.
THERE IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, KARAI. MANY THINK FAMILY IS A BIRTHRIGHT. IT IS NOT.
FAMILY IS SOMETHING TO BE EARNED.
THAT IS WHY THE FOOT WILL ALWAYS BE STRONGER THAN ITS ENEMIES.
OUR FAMILY, OUR BOND, RUNS DEEPER THAN BLOOD. IT IS FORGED IN PAIN, SACRIFICE, AND COMBAT. ONCE TESTED, IT IS UNBREAKABLE.

"THAT IS WHY WE ARE DESTINED TO RULE ALL."
HOPE IT WAS WORTH IT—THAT LOST PUP OF YOURS DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, AND NOW YOU'RE ALL GONNA BE ON SHREDHEAD'S MOST WANTED LIST.
LEO'S GONNA BE FINE, HOB.
WE WON'T BE STICKING AROUND, ANYWAY. I KNOW EXACTLY THE PLACE WE CAN GO.
AND WE MUST LEAVE NOW. SAKI WILL BE SEARCHING FOR US.
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANNA COME WITH US, ANGEL?
NAH—THANKS, MAN. MY DAD NEEDS ME HERE. I'LL BE OKAY.
MY SON, I AM SO HAPPY THAT—
DON'T... DON'T TOUCH ME.
UH... LEO?
"THE ENTIRE WORLD LIES BEFORE US...
"...AND THERE IS NOWHERE THAT IS SAFE FOR OUR ENEMIES TO HIDE."

art by NICK PITARRA
colors by MEGAN WILSON